

## Mary Barber, “Jupiter and Fortune. A Fable”

### Description

MARY BARBER

#### “Jupiter and Fortune. A Fable”

Once JUPITER, from out the Skies,  
Beheld a thousand Temples rise;  
The Goddess FORTUNE all invoc’d,  
To JOVE an Altar seldom smok’d:  
The God resolv’d to make Inspection, 5  
What had occasion’d this Defection;  
And bid the Goddess tell the Arts,  
By which she won deluded Hearts.

My Arts! (says she) Great JOVE, you know,  
That I do ev’ry Thing below: 10  
I make my Vot’ries dine on Plate;  
I give the gilded Coach of State;  
Bestow the glitt’ring Gems, that deck  
The fair LAVINIA’S lovely Neck;  
I make NOVELLA Nature’s Boast, 15  
And raise VALERIA to a Toast;  
‘Tis I, who give the Stupid, Taste,  
(Or make the Poets lie, at least);  
My fav’rite Sons, whene’er they please,  
Can Palaces in Desarts raise, 20  
Cut out Canals, make Fountains play,  
And make the dreary Waste look gay;  
Ev’n Vice seems Virtue by my Smiles;  
I gild the Villian’s gloomy Wiles,  
Nay, almost raise him to a God, 25  
While crowded Levees wait his Nod.

ENOUGH– the Thunderer reply’d;  
But say, whom have you satisfy’d?  
These boasted Gifts are thine, I own;  
But know, Content is mine alone. 30

### NOTES:

**Title** *Jupiter* “Known as ‘Jove’ is the god of sky and thunder in Ancient Roman Mythology and the chief of the

gods. Father of Fortuna and great protector”( *Britannica*); *Fortune* Fortuna is the goddess of fortune and luck in ancient Roman mythology.

**11** *Vot’ries* “A devoted or zealous worshipper of a particular god [or] goddess” (*OED*).

**16** *Toast* “The reigning belle of the season” (*OED*).

**26** *Levees* “A morning assembly held by a prince or a person of distinction” (*OED*).

**SOURCE:** *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1735), pp. 63-64. [Google Books]

*Edited by Raven Valdivia*