

## [Charlotte Lennox], "A Song"

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[CHARLOTTE LENNOX]

### "A Song"

I.

In Vain I strive with Female Art,  
To hide the Motions of my Heart;  
My Eyes my secret Flame declare,  
And *Damon* reads his Triumph there.

II.

When from his fond, his ardent Gaze, 5  
With Frowns I turn aside my Face;  
My Cheeks with conscious Blushes glow,  
And all my Soul's Disorder show.

III.

Or when with seeming Scorn I hear  
The Youth his tender vows prefer; 10  
From my fond Breast reluctant steals  
A sign, and all the Truth reveal.

IV.

Oh, Love, all-powerful o'er the Mind,  
Art thou, to rigid rules confin'd?  
And must the heart that owns thy sway, 15  
That Tyrant Customs Laws obey?

V.

Oh! let me break the cruel Chain,  
And freely own my tender Pain:  
By harsh Restraint no longer sway'd,  
Confirm whate'er my Eyes have said. 20

**NOTES:**

**1** *Female Art* Artifice; “the action of an artificer; the making of something by art or skill (*OED*).

**4** *Damon* A male figure from Greek mythology that represents a good friend, mate, or cherub (Johnson).

**16** *Tyrant Customs Laws* Laws that are based on traditional, or customary practice; habitual behavior. Often personified by women poets in this period as a “tyrant” because oppressive to women generally.

**Source:** *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1747), pp. 56-60. [Google Books]

*Edited by Larica Fantasia Jacko*