

Mary Masters, "To Lucinda"

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MARY MASTERS

"To Lucinda"

LUCINDA, you in vain dissuade
Two Hearts from mutual Love.
What am'rous Youth, or tender Maid
Could e'er their Flames remove?

What, if the Charms in him I see
Only exist in Thought:
Yet CUPID'S like the *Medes* Decree,
Is firm and changeth not.

Seek not to know my Passion's spring,
The Reason to discover: 10
For Reason is an useless Thing,
When we've commenc'd the Lover.

Should Lovers quarrel with their Fate,
And ask the Reason why,
They are condemn'd to doat on That, 15
Or for This Object die?

They must not hope for a Reply,
And this is all they know;
They sigh, and weep, and rave, and die,
Because it must be so. 20

LOVE is a mighty God you know,
That rules with potent Sway:
And, when he draws his awful Bow,
We Mortals must obey.

Since you the fatal Strife endur'd, 25
And yielded to his Dart:
How can I hope to be secur'd,
And guard a weaker Heart?

NOTES:

1 *disswade* Variation of dissuade "to give advice against" (*OED*).

7 *CUPID'S* The Roman God of love, son of Venus; often appears as an infant with wings carrying a bow, and arrows that have the power to inspire love in those they pierce (*Encyclopædia Britannica*); *Medes Decree* Refers to the laws of the Medes and Persians, "Medes" being an ancient Indo-European people whose empire encompassed most of Persia; in the Bible, "laws of the Medes" is a proverbial phrase meaning, "something that is unalterable" (*OED*).

21 *LOVE* The God of love, Cupid.

22 *Sway* "Power" (*OED*).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London: T. Browne, 1733), pp. 151-53. [Hathi Trust]

Edited by Brittany Kirn