

Robert Luck, "The Dry Joke"

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ROBERT LUCK

“The Dry Joke”

God *Bacchus* well warm'd,
With Beauty was charm'd;
And *Cupid's* bright Mother address.
She cry'd, you are silly ——
I hate you — nor will I
Be thus by a Toper carest.

Thus slighted the God,
With an angry Nod,
Said , Adieu to you, Madam — in vain
You'll try to allure me: 10
Your Pride shall secure me,
From Courting coy Beauty again.

What *Bacchus* then spoke,
She hop'd was in joke:
And again Wine and Love wou'd agree. 15
But he, as malicious
As she was capricious,
Her Error soon made her to see.

For Nymphs sweet as *May*,
All met at a Play; 20
Where each was as fine as a Queen.
In each lovely Creature,
Art yielded to Nature;
Tho' deck'd all in Jewels are seen.

Apollo was there, 25
To charm e'ery ear;
But (what a mild Dove wou'd provoke.)
The Beaus who appear'd on
The Stage, slily lear'd on;

And left the fair Circle to choke. 30

Now *Venus* in vain,
Does to *Bacchus* complain,
That Beauty was dying with thirst.
The God reply'd, smiling,
Her Coyness reviling ——— 35
Why did you provoke me then first?

O ye Ladies, beware,
Be as kind as you're fair;
Nor requite your fond Slaves with disdain.
A Lover defeated, 40
With vengeance is hated;
And Mischief still runs in his Brain.

NOTES:

1 *Bacchus* “The god of wine” (*OED*).

3 *Cupid* “In Roman Mythology, the god of love, son of Mercury and Venus” (*OED*).

6 *Toper* “One who topes or drinks a great deal; a drunkard” (*OED*).

25 *Apollo* Greek god of sun, light, music and poetry.

28 *Beaus* “A man who gives particular, or excessive, attention to dress, mien, and social etiquette; a dandy” (*OED*).

31 *Venus* The ancient Roman goddess of beauty and love.

SOURCE: *A Miscellany of new Poems, on Several Occasions* (London, 1736), pp. 56-58. [*Google Books*]

Edited by Ivan Li