Mary Masters, â??To my Selfâ?•

Description

MARY MASTERS

â??To my Selfâ?•

Maria, now, leave all that thou hast lovâ??d,
And be, no more, by outward objects movâ??d.
Quit the vain World, and its alluring Toys,
Its airy Pleasures, and fictitious Joys.
False are the Colours, high is the Deceit,
And that, which fairest seems, the greatest Cheat.
Turn then, fond Maid, from the Delusion fly,
And guide thy future Aims by Reasonâ??s Eye.
No more let Sense the radiant *Queen* depose,
Or the fair *Monarch* her just Sceptre lose.
Let Her mild Dictates bend thy stubborn Will,
And keep thy wild impetuous Passions still:
Let gentle *Prudence* her soft Powâ??r exert,
And curb the Transports of thy foolish Heart.
Tempestuous Anger, and tumultuous Joy,
Both are uncomely, both the Health destroy.
These, and all others of the ardent Kind,
Are prejudicial to a peaceful Mind,
Then, shun extremes, and calmly bear thy Fate,
Not too dejected, nor too much elate.
If thy kind Lord a prospâ??rous Lot has givâ??n,
Bless the Indulgence of all-bounteous Heavâ??n.
Or, if he fixes a severer Doom,
And should think fit to call his Favours home;
Humbly submit to the divine Decree,
None but himself his wise designs can see.

NOTES:

1 *Maria* Mary Mastersâ??s poetic name for herself.

3 *Toys* â??Matter of no importance; thing of no valueâ?• (Johnson).

12 *impetuous* â??Violent; forcibleâ?• (Johnson).

13 *Prudence* â??Wisdom applied to practiceâ?• (Johnson).

15 *Tempestuous* â??Strong conflicting emotionsâ?• (OED); *tumultuous* â??Violent commotion; irregularly and confusedly agitatedâ?• (Johnson).

17 *ardent* â??Fiery; fierceâ?• (Johnson).

20 *dejected* â??Low spiritedâ?• (Johnson); *elate* â??To heightenâ?• (Johnson).

21 *kind Lord* Likely a reference to the Christian God

23 *Doom* Death.

25 *Decree* â??A lawâ?• (Johnson).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1733), pp. 169-171.

Edited by Kaili Ferreira