[Charlotte Lennox], â??The Language of the Eyes to Lady Jâ??- Fâ??-â??

Description

[CHARLOTTE LENNOX]

â??THE LANGUAGE of the EYES to LADY Jâ??â?? Fâ??â??â?•

I.

IF forcâ??d by Tyrant Custom, we
The Anguish of our Souls conceal,
Our Eyes yet boast their Liberty;
Let them the tender Truths reveal;
In soft persuasive Glances speak our Grief,
And from that silent Language find Relief.

II.

Those sweet Betrayers of the Mind,
Can always lend their welcome Aid,
The Thoughts by harsh Restraint confinâ??d,
By them are all to View betrayâ??d;
The doubtful War, which Hope and Fear maintainâ??d,
Are by those charming Orators explainâ??d.

III.

See Anger in that sparkling Eye,
This in soft Shades of Sorrow drest;
Love, smiling Hope, and tender Joy,
In those inchanting Looks exprest;
The conquâ??ring Eyes correct the Loverâ??s Heart,
And as they Smile or Frown, their Hopes and Fears impart.

IV.

Ye Fair, who strive with Darts to arm,
The languid Beauties of your Eyes,
Of *Isabellas* learn to charm,
Like hers the ravishâ??d Soul surprize ;
Her Mind does all their glorious Beams dispense,
Bright as they are they owe their Rays to Sense.

NOTES:

1 *Tyrant Custom* Custom, defined as â??a habitual or usual practice; common way of acting;â?¦(either of an individual or of a community),â?• is often personified and blamed for certain forms of gendered oppression in eighteenth-century womenâ??s writing (OED).

14 *drest* Pre-standardization spelling of â??dressed.â?•

16 *inchanting, exprest* Pre-standardization spellings of â??enchantingâ?• and â??expressed.â?•

20 *Darts* A word commonly used to refer to the arrows of Cupid, the Roman God of desire and attraction, which caused their targets to fall in love (Britannica.com).

22 *Isabellas* At age 15 Lennox became companion to Lady Isabella Finch, to whom this volume of poems is dedicated (*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions. Written by a Young Lady*. London: S. Patterson, 1747. pp 26-27. [Google Books]

Edited by Hailey J. Scandrette