

Anne Finch, "Cupid and Folly"

Description

ANNE FINCH

"Cupid and Folly"
Imitated from the FRENCH

Cupid, ere depriv'd of Sight,
Young and apt for all Delight,
Met with *Folly* on the way,
As Idle, and as fond of Play.
In gay Sports the time they pass; 5
Now run, now wrestle on the Grass;
Their painted Wings then nimbly ply,
And ev'ry way for Mast'ry try:
Till a Contest do's arise,
Who has won th' appointed Prize. 10
Gentle *Love* refers the Case
To the next, that comes in Place;
Trusting to his flatt'ring Wiles,
And softens the Dispute with Smiles.
But *Folly*, who no Temper knows, 15
Words pursues with hotter Blows:
Till the Eyes of *Love* were lost,
Which has such Pain to Mortals cost.
Venus hears his mournful Crys,
And repeats 'em, in the Skys, 20
To *Jupiter* in Council set,
With Peers for the Occasion met;
In her Arms the Boy she bears,
Bathing him in falling Tears;
And whilst his want of Eyes is shown, 25
Secures the Judges by her Own.
Folly to the Board must come,
And hear the Tryal and the Doom;
Which *Cytherea* loudly prays
May be as heavy as the Case: 30
Which, when All was justly weigh'd,
Cupid's Wings now useless made,
That a Staff, his Feet must guide,
Which wou'd still be apt to slide;
This Decree at last was read, 35
That *Love* by *Folly* shou'd be lead.

NOTES:

1 *Cupid* Roman god of love (Britannica), often rendered in iconography as blindfolded or blind.

3 *Folly* Foolishness; 'unwise conduct' (OED).

19 *Venus* Roman goddess of love, mother of Cupid (Britannica).

21 *Jupiter* Roman god of the sky (Britannica).

29 *Cytherea* Another name for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love.

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1714), pp. 135-136. [HathiTrust]

Edited by Hannah Heiden