Aphra Behn, â??The Dream. A Songâ?•

Description

APHRA BEHN

â??The Dream. A Songâ?•

I.
The Grove was gloomy all around,
Murmâ??ring the Streams did pass,
Where fond *Astrea* laid her down
Upon a Bed of Grass.

I slept and saw a piteous sight,
Cupid a weeping lay,
Till both his little Stars of Light
Had wept themselves away.

II.
Methought I askâ??d him why he cryâ??d,
My Pity led me on:
All sighing the sad Boy replyâ??d,
Alas I am undone!

As I beneath yon Myrtles lay,
Down by *Diana*â??s Springs,
Amyntas stole my Bow away,
And Pinionâ??d both my Wings.

III.
Alas ! cryâ??d I, â??twas then thy Darts
Wherewith he wounded me:
Thou Mighty *Deity* of Hearts,
He stole his Powâ??r from thee.

Revenge thee, if a God thou be,
Upon the *Amorous Swain*;
Iâ??ll set thy Wings at Liberty,
And thou shalt fly again.

IV.
And for this Service on my Part,
All I implore of thee,
Is, That thouâ??t wound *Amyntas* Heart,
And make him die for me.

His Silken Fetters I Untyâ??d,
And the gay Wings displayâ??d;
Which gently fannâ??d, he mounts and cryâ??d,
Farewel fond easie Maid.

V.

At this I blushâ??d, and angry grew
I should a God believe;
And waking found my Dream too true;
Alas I was a Slave.

NOTES:

3 *Astrea* â??Goddess of justice and virtueâ?• (*Dictionary of Classical Mythology*). Also Behnâ??s poetic name for herself.

6 *Cupid* â??God of loveâ?• (*OED*).

13 *Myrtles* â??Various evergreen shrubs or small treesâ?• (*OED*).

14 *Diana* â??Goddess of wild animals and the huntâ?• (*Britannica*).

15 *Amyntas* Here a pastoral name for a swain.

16 *Pinionâ??d* â??Clipped wingsâ?• (*OED*).

22 *Swain* â??Country loverâ?• (*OED*).

29 *Fetters* Restraints (*OED*).

SOURCE: ***Poems upon Several Occasions: With A Voyage to the Island of Love*** **(London 1684), pp. 78-80. [Google Books]**

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