[Mary Barber], â??The Oak and its Branches. A Fable.â?•

Description

[MARY BARBER]

***â??The* Oak *and its* Branches. *A Fable*.â?•**

***Ocassionâ??d by seeing a dead* Oak *beautifully encompassâ??d with* Ivy.**

An Oak, with spreading Branches crownâ??d,
Beheld an Ivy on the Ground,
Exposâ??d to evâ??ry trampling Beast,
That roamâ??d around the dreary Waste.
The Tree of *Jove*, in all his State,
With Pity viewâ??d the Ivyâ??s Fate;
And kindly told her, She should find
Security around his Rind:
Nor was that only his Intent,
But to bestow some Nourishment.

The Branches saw, and grievâ??d to see
Some Juices taken from the Tree.
Parent, say they, in angry Tone,
Your Sap should nourish us alone:
Why should you nurse this Stranger-Plant,
With what your Sons, in time, may want?
May want, to raise us high in Air,
And make us more distinguishâ??d there.

â??Tis well â?? the Parent-Tree replyâ??d;
Must I, to gratify your Pride,
Act only with a narrow View
Of doing Good to none but you?
Know, Sons, thoâ?? JOVE hath made me great,
I am not safe from Storms of Fate.
Is it not prudent then, I pray,
To guard against another Day?
Whilst Iâ??m alive, *You* crown my Head;
This graces me alive, and dead.

NOTES:

2 *Ivy â??*A well-known climbing evergreen shrub (Hedera Helix), indigenous to Europe and parts of Asia and Africaâ?• (*OED*).

5 *Tree of Jove* The god Jupiter, also known as Jove, is the Romanized Zeus, and a sky god who uses the oak tree as a symbol of worship (*Britannica*).

8 *Rind* Alluding to the bark of the oak tree.

14 *Sap* â??The vital juice or fluid which circulates in plantsâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1735) pp. 48-49. [Google Books]

Edited by Nick LoBue