William Collins, â??Ode to Peaceâ?•

Description

WILLIAM COLLINS
â??Ode to Peaceâ?•

O Thou who badst thy turtles bear
Swift from his grasp thy golden hair,
And soughtâ??st thy native skies;
When War, by vultures drawn from far,
To Britain bent his iron car,
And bade his storms arise!

â??â??Tirâ??d of his rude tyrannic sway,
Our youth shall fix some festive day,
His sullen shrines to burn :â??
But thou, who hearâ??st the turning spheres,
What sounds may charm thy partial ears,
And gain thy blest return!

O Peace, thy injurâ??d robes up-bind!
O rise! and leave not one behind
Of all thy beamy train:
The British Lion, Goddess sweet,
Lies stretchâ??d on earth to kiss thy feet,
And own thy holier reign.

Let others court thy transient smile;
But come to grace thy western isle,
By warlike Honour led;
And, while, around her ports rejoice,
While all her sons adore thy choice,
With him for ever wed!

NOTES:

1 *badst* â??Commandedâ?• (*OED*).

3 *soughtâ??st* â??To go in search or quest ofâ?• (*OED*).

4 *War* Reference to the second Jacobite rebellion (1745-1746), Charles Edward Stuart, the â??Young Pretender,â?• was finally defeated in the Battle of Culloden, in northern Scotland, on 16 April 1746 (*Britannica*).

6 *bade* â??Bidâ?• (*OED*).

16 *The British Lion* â??The lion as the national emblem of Great Britain; hence often used figuratively for the British nation (*OED*).

19 *transient* â??Temporary; fleetingâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: ***The Poetical Works of Mr. William Collins*** **(Glasgow, 1777), pp. 48-49 [Google Books]**
Edited by Montel Mosuela