Rev. Tipping Silvester, â??Venusâ??s Girdle; or Advice to a Wifeâ?•

Description

[REV. TIPPING SILVESTER]

â??Venusâ??s Girdle; or Advice to a Wifeâ?•

â??LET nothing your unsullyâ??d beauties cloud;
Be always chearful, but be never loud.
Evâ??n *Juno*â??s self set deities at odds,
And oft made uproars in the blest abodes:
For, if we may believe what poets sung,
Imperial *Jove* was pesterâ??d with a tongue.
Where pets prevail, sweet concordâ??s broken soon;
The string, which jars, is always out of tune.
LET no *distrusts* your settled peace disturb;
Which irritate the mind, but seldom cure:
So the cold humour, which on lime we pour,
Inflames those parts, which quiet were before
Reproaches seldom cure our loose desires,
But leave a stink, and raise domestick fires.
MAY no *surmises* lie concealâ??d below;
A rankling breast create a sullen brow:
The sulphur rages most in caverns pent,
And shocks that earth, which cannot give it vent.
JUST wit to furnish the politer Joke;
A *spirit*, just enough not to provoke:
Genteel *demeanour*, and superior *sense*,
And *ease* at just remove from *indolence*:
Oeconomy, which nought superfluous spends;
And is least frugal, when we have our friends:
These be your aim: the *something* further still,
Which hits the good mens humours, when theyâ??re ill;
There goes to feed a hymeneal flame,
Thâ?? engaging *somewhat*, which still wants a name:
The wiser wife alone this Secret knows;
This is the *girdle* beautyâ??s queen bestows.

NOTES:

Title This is an extract from Silvesterâ??s poem of the same title which first appeared in his volume, *Original Poems and Translations* (London, 1733), pp. 55-56.

3 *Juno* Roman goddess and â??female counterpart to Jupiter; [she] was connected with all aspects of the life of women, most particularly married lifeâ?• (*Britannica*).

6 *Jove* Poetic form of Jupiter, the Roman name for Zeus.

11 *cold humour* Likely a reference to phlegm, one of the four humours associated with cold and moisture; *lime* â??The alkaline earth which is the chief constituent of mortarâ?¦it is powerfully caustic and combines readily with water, evolving great heat in the processâ?• (*OED*).

21 G*enteel* â??Courteaous, polite; obligingâ?• (*OED*).

23 *Oeconomy* Archaic spelling of â??economy.â?•

27 *hymeneal* â??Pertaining to marriageâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine*, (February 1734), p. 99. [Google Books]

Edited by Liv Wisely