Ann Yearsley, â??Soliloquyâ?•

Description

ANN YEARSLEY

â??**Soliloquy**â?•

â??What folly to complain,
Or throw my woes against the face of Heaven?
Ills, self-created, prey upon my soul,
And rob each coming hour of softenâ??d Peace.
What then? Is Fate to blame? I chose distress;
Free will was mine; I might have still been happy
From a fore-knowledge of the dire effect,
And the sad bondage of resistless love.
I knew the struggles of a wounded mind,
Not self-indulging, and not prone to vice,
Knew all the terrors of conflicting passion,
Too stubborn foe, and ever unsubduâ??d;
Yet rashly parleyâ??d with the mighty victor.
Infectious mists upon my senses hang,
More deadly than LETHEAN dews which fall
From SOMNUSâ?? bough, on the poor wearied wretch,
Whose woes are fully told!â??
The dire contagion creeps throâ?? all my frame,
Seizes my heart, and drinks my spirit up.
Ah! fatal poison, whither dost thou tend?
Tear not my soul with agonizing pains;
There needs no more; the world to me is lost,
And all the whirl of life-unneeded thrift.
I sicken at the Sun, and fly his beams,
Like some sad ghost which loves the moonless night,
And pensive shuns the morn. The deep recess
Where dim-eyâ??d Melancholy silent sits,
Beckoning the poor desponding slighted wretch,
Suits well. â??Tis here I find a gloomy rest;
â??Tis here the foolâ??s loud clatter leaves me still,
Nor force unwilling answers to their tale:
But, ah! this gloom, this lethargy of thought,
Yields not repose; I sigh the hour away;
The next rolls on, and leaves me still opprest.
But, oh! swift-footed Time, thou ceaseless racer,

Thou who hast chacâ??d five thousand years before thee,
With all their great events, and minute trifles,
Haste, with redoubled speed, bring on the hour,
When dark Oblivionâ??s dusky veil shall shroud
Too painful Memory. â??

NOTES:

15 *Lethean* ***â??*** Pertaining to the river Lethe; hence, pertaining to or causing oblivion or forgetfulness of the pastâ?• (*OED*).

16 *Somnus* Roman god of sleep.

23 *thrift* â??Means of thriving; industry, labour; profitable occupationâ?• or â??prosperous growth; physical thrivingâ?• (*OED*).

38 *Redoubled* â??To double (a thing) for a second or further time; (also) to double repeatedlyâ?• (*OED*).

Source: *Poems, on Several Occasions*, fourth edition (London, 1786), pp. 58-60. [Google Books]

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