Mary Masters, â??To the Sun, in a cold dry Seasonâ?•

Description

MARY MASTERS

â??To the Sun, in a cold dry Seasonâ?•

PARENT of Light, whose ever-shining Ray,
Quickens the Globe, and kindles up the Day:
Collect thy Force, the Ardors all prepare,
To mitigate and warm the frigid Air:
Send forth, bright Prince, a more extensive Glow,
And let us feel thy chearing Powâ??rs below.
Let humid Vapours leave their native Streams,
Exhalâ??d from thence by thy attracting Beams;
In rising Mists our Evâ??ning Walks attend,
And kindly on the softâ??ning Earth descend.
Or else, invisibly expanding, rise
Mix into Clouds, and float along the Skies;
There all the Day in bright Suspension stayâ??d,
And beautiful by thy Reflection made;
Borderâ??d with Gold, or tingâ??d with purple Hue,
Like rich *Embossings* on a Ground of Blue,
To the pleasâ??d Eye present a gaudy Scene,
Whilst the pure *AEther* heavâ??nly looks between.
Let nightly Showâ??rs refresh the thirsty Earth,
And daily *Fervors* give her Plants a Birth:
Beneath our Feet the flowâ??ry Buds shall spring,
And on each side the wingâ??d Musicians sing:
Thâ?? indulgent Skies shall bless the Peasantâ??s Toil,
Call forth rich Crops, and make all Nature smile.

Then shall MECENAS grace his rural Seat,
Healthful and happy in a warm Retreat:
The neighbouring Towns by his dear Presence blest,
Shall hail and welcome the illustrious Guest:
MARIA too the general Joy will share,
Applaud his Merit, and divide his Care:
For like thy Beams, his genâ??rous Virtues spread,
And shine benignant on the humble Head.

NOTES:

3 *Ardors* â??Fierce or burning heatâ?• (*OED*).

16 *Embossing*s â??To adorn with figures or other ornamentation in reliefâ?• (*OED*).

18 *AEther* â??The clear sky; the upper regions of space beyond the cloudsâ?• (*OED*).

20 *Fervors* â??Glowing condition, intense heatâ?• (*OED*).

25 *MECENAS* Gaius Cilnius Maecenas (c.70 BC-c. 8 BC), Roman politician, counselor to the emperor Augustus, and wealthy patron of such poets as Virgil and Horace. His name became synonymous with ideal literary patronage by the eighteenth century (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

29 *MARIA* Mastersâ??s poetic name for herself.

32 *benignant* â??Cherishing or exhibiting kindly feeling towards inferiors or dependants; gracious, benevolent (with some suggestion of condescension or patronage)â?• (*OED*).

Source: ***Poems on Several Occasions, (*****London 1733), pp. 52-54. [Hathi Trust]**

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