Anonymous, â??Sickness. An Odeâ?•

Description

ANONYMOUS

â??SICKNESS. An ODEâ?•

From the GRUBSTREET JOURNAL.

At midnight when the fever ragâ??d,
By physicâ??s art still unasswagâ??d,
And toturâ??d me with pain:
When most it scorchâ??d my acking head,
Like sulphâ??rous fire, or liquid lead,
And hissâ??d through every vein:

With silent steps approaching nigh,
Pale death stood trembling in my eye,
And shook thâ?? up-lifted dart:
My mind did various thoughts debate
Of this, and of an after state,
Which terrifyâ??d my heart.

I thought â??twas hard, in youthful age,
To quit this fine delightful stage,
No more to view the day;
Nor eâ??er again the night to spend
In social converse with a friend,
Ingenious, learnâ??d, and gay.

No more in curious books to read
The wisdom of thâ?? illustrious dead;
All that is dear to leave,
Relations, friends, and MIRA too,
Without one kiss, one dear adieu,
To moulder in the grave.

Incircled with congenial clay,
To worms and creeping things a prey,
To waste, dissolve, and rot:
To lie wrappâ??d cold within a shroud,
Mingled amongst the vilest crowd,
Unnoted, and forgot.

Oh horror by this train of thought
My mind was to distraction brought,
Impossible to tell:
The fever ragâ??d still more without,
Whilst dark despair, or dismal doubt,
Made all within my hell.

At length, with grave, yet cheerful air
Repentance came, serenely fair,
As summerâ??s evening sun;
At sight of whom extatic joy
Did all that horrid scene destroy;
And every fear was gone.

If joinâ??d in consort, with one voice,
Angels at such a change rejoice;
I heard their joy exprest.
If there be music in the spheres,
That music struck my ravishâ??d ears,
And charmâ??d my soul to rest.

NOTES:

Title *The Grubstreet Journal* (January 1730-1738) was a critical and satirical newspaper published weekly in London (The Library of Congress).

2 *unasswagâ??d* An archaic spelling of unassuaged; â??not soothed or relievedâ?• (*Oxford Dictionaries* [no definition given in *OED*]).

24 *moulder* â??To decay to dust; to rot; to crumbleâ?• *(OED).*

25 *congenial* â??Suited to the nature ofâ?• *(OED).*

43 *consort* â??To keep company with; to escort or attendâ?• *(OED).*

Source: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine* (January 1733), p. 42.

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