

Aphra Behn, The Dream. A Song

Description

APHRA BEHN

The Dream. A Song

I.

The Grove was gloomy all around,
Murmuring the Streams did pass,
Where fond *Astrea* laid her down
Upon a Bed of Grass.

I slept and saw a piteous sight, 5
Cupid a weeping lay,
Till both his little Stars of Light
Had wept themselves away.

II.

Methought I asked him why he cry'd,
My Pity led me on: 10
All sighing the sad Boy reply'd,
Alas I am undone!

As I beneath yon Myrtles lay,
Down by *Diana's* Springs,
Amyntas stole my Bow away, 15
And Pinion'd both my Wings.

III.

Alas ! cry'd I, 'twas then thy Darts
Wherewith he wounded me:
Thou Mighty *Deity* of Hearts,
He stole his Power from thee. 20

Revenge thee, if a God thou be,
Upon the *Amorous Swain*;
I'll set thy Wings at Liberty,
And thou shalt fly again.

IV.

And for this Service on my Part, 25
All I implore of thee,
Is, That thou'lt wound *Amyntas* Heart,
And make him die for me.

His Silken Fetters I Untyâ??d,
And the gay Wings displayâ??d; 30
Which gently fannâ??d, he mounts and cryâ??d,
Farewel fond easie Maid.

V.

At this I blushâ??d, and angry grew
I should a God believe;
And waking found my Dream too true; 35
Alas I was a Slave.

NOTES:

3 *Astrea* â??Goddess of justice and virtueâ?• (*Dictionary of Classical Mythology*). Also Behnâ??s poetic name for herself.

6 *Cupid* â??God of loveâ?• (*OED*).

13 *Myrtles* â??Various evergreen shrubs or small treesâ?• (*OED*).

14 *Diana* â??Goddess of wild animals and the huntâ?• (*Britannica*).

15 *Amyntas* Here a pastoral name for a swain.

16 *Pinion*â??d â??Clipped wingsâ?• (*OED*).

22 *Swain* â??Country loverâ?• (*OED*).

29 *Fetters* Restraints (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems upon Several Occasions: With A Voyage to the Island of Love* (London 1684), pp. 78-80.
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