Ann Murry, â??An Odeâ?•

Description

ANN MURRY

â??An Odeâ?•

Beneath a Willowâ??s mournful shade,
Fair Ariadne lay;
A chearless, solitary maid,
Thoâ?? once content and gay.

In tender accents thus I spoke,
To ease her labâ??ring breast:
Dost thou complain of promise broke?
Art thou by want oppressâ??d?

Can I thy wounded heart relieve,
By pityâ??s healing balm?
Or if some faithless youth deceive,
Thy perturbations calm?

â??Ah noâ?• (she said) â??hard is my fate,
From lovely Theseus torn;
Thy consolation comes too late,
His absence thus I mourn.

The beams I shun of chearing day,
To Luna hence complain;
Like Philomel in mournful lay,
Pour forth my plaintive strain.

Remembrance sad, of former joys,
Is ever in my sight;
The cruel Phantom which destroys
My peace both day and night.

Thus am I plungâ??d in fell despair,
As Love my anguish mocks;
With sighs I rend the fragrant air,
Implore unpitying rocks.â?•

In me her lamentations wrought
Emotions of desire,

To kindle in her ruffled thoughts,
Sparks of celestial fire.

Cease, lovely mourner! then I cryâ??d,
To yield to cankâ??ring woe;
Let slighted love, and fear subside,
And sorrow cease to flow.

Ingratitude in Men we find,
By various forms expressâ??d;
Unlike the constant ray refinâ??d,
Which warms the female breast.

Impetuous, and inclinâ??d to change,
They bear a lawless sway;
From flowâ??r to flowâ??r delight to range,
And flatter to betray.

Forbear to struggle with thy fate,
Opposing Heavâ??ns decrees;
Which grants things suited to thy state,
Pertaining to thy ease.

Yet oft denies the Loverâ??s prayâ??r,
And vain mistaken boon;
Regards their sighs as empty air,
If heard, repented soon.

Love, the invader of thy peace,
Subdued by Reasonâ??s powâ??r,
Shall feel his daring influence cease,
Nor cloud thy future hour.

Serenity shall grace thy brows,
With Friendshipâ??s sacred band;
To her then offer up thy vows,
And yield thy willing hand.

Be thou the messenger of peace,
Dispensing holy joy;
Rely on hopes which neâ??er can cease,
Nor mortal Man destroy.

Depend on him, whose powâ??r alone,
Can give substantial rest;
Aspire to reach his heavâ??nly throne,
A meek and welcome guest.

NOTES:

2,14 *Ariadneâ?¦Theseus* Star-crossed lovers of Greek mythology; Ariadne hangs herself after being abandoned by Theseus (*Britannica*).

12 *perturbations* â??The disturbance of the regularâ?¦state of a thingâ?• (*OED*).

18 *Luna* The moon.

19 *Philomel* The nightingale.

20 *plaintive strain* Mournful song (*OED*).

23 *Phantom* â??Something not real but appearing to the imaginationâ?• (Johnson).

25 *fell* â??Intensely painful or destructiveâ?• (*OED*).

32 *Sparks of celestial fire* Interest in a love of God.

34 *cankâ??ring* From â??canker,â?• meaning to â??spread harmfully and insidiouslyâ?• (*OED*).

41 *Impetuous* â??Acting with or marked by great sudden or rash energy;â?¦passionate, ardentâ?• (*OED*).

50 *boon* â??A favour, in response to askingâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems on Various Subjects* (London, 1779), pp. 35-39. [Google Books]

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