William Broome, â??Courage in Loveâ?•

Description

WILLIAM BROOME

â??Courage in Loveâ?•

My Eyes with Floods of Tears oâ??erflow,
My Bosom heaves with constant Woe;
Those Eyes, which thy Unkindess swells,
That Bosom, where thy Image dwells!

How could I hope so weak a Flame
Could ever warm that matchless Dame,
When none *Elysium* must behold,
Without a radiant Bough of Gold?
â??Tis hers, in Spheres to shine,
At distance to admire, is mine:
Doomâ??d, like thâ?? enamourâ??d Youth, to groan
For a new Goddess formâ??d of Stone.

While thus I spoke, Loveâ??s gentle Powâ??r
Descended from thâ?? Aethereal Bowâ??r;
A Quiver at his Shoulder hung,
A Shaft he graspâ??d, and Bow unstrung.
All Nature ownâ??d and genial God,
And the Spring flourishâ??d where he trod:
My Heart, no Stranger to the Guest,
Flutterâ??d, and labourâ??d in my Breast;
When with a Smile that kindles Joy
Evâ??n in the Gods, began the Boy:

How vain these Tears? is Man decreed,
By being abject, to succeed?
Hopâ??st thou by meagre Looks to move?
Are Women frightenâ??d into Love?
He most prevails who nobly dares;
In Love an Hero, as in Wars:
Evâ??n *Venus* may be known to yield,
But â??tis when *Mars* disputes the Field:
Sent from a daring Hand my Dart
Strikes deep into the Fair-oneâ??s Heart:
To Winds and Waves thy Cares bequeath,

A Sign, is but a waste of Breath:
What thoâ?? gay Youth, and every Grace
That Beauty boasts, adorn her Face,
Yet Goddesses have deignâ??d to wed,
And take a Mortal to their Bed:
And Heavâ??n, when Gifts of Incense rise,
Accepts it, thoâ?? it cloud their Skies.

Mark! how this Marygold conceals
Her Beauty, and her Bosom veils,
How from the dull Embrace she flies
Of *Phoebus*, when his Beams arise;
But when his Glory he displays,
And darts around his fiercer Rays,
Her Charms she opens, and receives
The vigorous God into her Leaves.

NOTES:

7 *Elysium* â??The supposed state or abode of the blessed after death in Greek mythologyâ?• (*OED*).

11 *Youth* â??*Polyderus*, who pined to death for the Love of a beautiful Statueâ?• [Authorâ??s note].

13 *Loveâ??s gentle Powâ??r* Cupid.

14 *Aethereal* â??Of or relating to heaven, God, or the gods; heavenly, celestialâ?• (*OED*).

29 *Venus â??*Roman goddess of beauty and loveâ?• (*OED*).

30 *Mars* â??The god of war of the ancient Romansâ?• (*OED*).

41 *Marygold* â??A plant with golden or yellow flowersâ?• (*OED*).

44 *Phoebus â??*Apollo as the god of light or of the sun; the sun personifiedâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions*, Second Edition (London, 1739), pp. 226-229. [Google Books]

Edited by Charlie May