

# Anne Finch, "Jupiter and the Farmer"

## Description

ANNE FINCH

### Jupiter and the Farmer

When Poets gave their God in *Crete* a Birth,  
Then *Jupiter* held Traffick with the Earth,  
And had a Farm to Lett: the Fine was high,  
For much the Treas<sup>ry</sup> wanted a Supply,  
By *Danae*'s wealthy Show<sup>r</sup> exhausted quite, and dry. 5  
But *Merc<sup>ry</sup>*, who as Steward kept the Court,  
So rack<sup>d</sup> the Rent, that all who made Resort  
Unsatisfy<sup>d</sup> return<sup>d</sup>, nor could agree  
To use the Lands, or pay his secret Fee;  
Till one poor Clown (thought subt<sup>ler</sup> than the rest, 10  
Thro<sup>ugh</sup> various Projects rolling in his Breast)  
Consents to take it, if at his Desire  
All Weathers tow<sup>ards</sup> his Harvest may conspire;  
The Frost to kill the Worm, the brooding Snow,  
The filling Rains may come, and *Phoebus* glow. 15  
The Terms accepted, sign<sup>d</sup> and seal<sup>d</sup> the Lease,  
His Neighbours Grounds afford their due Encrease  
The Care of Heav<sup>n</sup>; the Owner<sup>s</sup> Cares may cease.  
Whilst the new Tenant, anxious in his Mind,  
Now asks a Show<sup>r</sup>, now craves a rustling Wind 20  
To raise what That had lodg<sup>d</sup>, that he the Sheaves may bind.  
The Sun, th<sup>rough</sup>-shadowing Clouds, the moistning Dews  
He with such Contrariety does chuse;  
So often and so oddly shifts the Scene,  
Whilst others Load, he scarce has what to Glean. 25

O *Jupiter!* with Famine pinch<sup>d</sup> he cries,  
No more will I direct th<sup>ese</sup> unerring Skies;  
No more my Substance on a Project lay,  
No more a sullen Doubt I will be betray,  
Let me but live to Reap, do Thou appoint the way. 30

## NOTES:

1<sup>st</sup> *Crete* <sup>is</sup> Greek island in the eastern Mediterranean; classical myth holds that the infant Jupiter was sequestered on Crete in a cave to protect him from being devoured by his father, Cronus, King of the Titans (*OCD*)

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**2** *Jupiter* *â€œRoman God of the sky who also went by the name, Jove* (*Britannica*).

**3** *Fine* *â€œA sum of money paid by a tenant on the commencement of a tenancy in order that [the] rent remain small or nominal* (*QED*).

**5** *Danae* *â€œs wealthy show* *â€œr* *â€œ Zeus appeared to Danae in the form of a golden shower, impregnated her, and she gave birth to Perseus* (*OCD*).

**6** *Merc* *â€œry* *â€œAn ancient Roman God. He is the son of Jupiter and Maia* (*QED*); *Steward* *â€œOne who manages the affairs of an estate on behalf of his employer* (*QED*).

**7** *rack* *â€œd* *â€œTo increase* *â€œby an excessive amount* (*QED*).

**10** *Clown* *â€œA countryman, rustic* (*QED*).

**15** *Phoebus* *â€œA nickname for Apollo. The name Phoebus was used in discussion related to the sun* (*OCD*).

**21** *Sheaves* *â€œLarge bundle[s] in which it is usual to bind cereal plants after reaping* (*QED*).

**25** *Glean* *â€œTo gather or pick up (ears of corn or other produce) after reaping* (*QED*).

**SOURCE:** *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1714), pp. 49-51. [\[Google Books\]](#)

*â€œ Edited by Andrea Cruz*