

To whose mysterious Rites she always came,
With such an active, so intense a Flame,
The Duties of Religion seemâ€™d to be
120
Not more her Care, than her Felicity.

COSMELIA.

Virtue unmixt, without the least Allay,
Pure as the Light of a Celestial Ray,
Commanded all the Motions of the Soul,
With such a soft, but absolute Controul,
125
That as she knew what best great PAN would please,
She still performâ€™d it with the greatest Ease.
Him for her high Exemplar she designâ€™d,
Like him, benevolent to all Mankind.
Her Foes she pityâ€™d, not desirâ€™d their Blood,
130
And to revenge their Crimes, she did them good:
Nay, all Affronts, so unconcernâ€™d she bore,
(Maugre that violent Temptation, Powâ€™d,
As if she thought it vulgar to resent,
Or wishâ€™d Forgiveness their worst Punishment.
135

STREPHON.

Next mighty PAN, was her illustrious Lord,
His high Vicegerent, sacredly adorâ€™d:
Him with such Piety and Zeal she lovâ€™d,
The noble Passion evâ€™ry Hour improvâ€™d.
Till it ascended to that glorious Height,
140
â€™Twas next, (if only next) to infinite.
This made her so entire a Duty pay,
She grew at last impatient to obey,
And met his Wishes with as prompt a Zeal,
As an Archangel his Creatorâ€™s Will.
145

COSMELIA.

Mature for Heavâ€™n, the fatal Mandate came,
With it, a Chariot of Etherial Flame,
In which, Elijah like, she passâ€™d the Spheres;
Brought Joy to Heavâ€™n, but left the World in Tears.

STREPHON.

Methinks I see her on the Plains of Light, Â
Â Â Â Â 150
All Glorious, all incomparably Bright!
While the immortal Minds around her gaze
On the excessive Splendour of her Rays,
And scarce believe a human Soul could be
Endowâ€™d with such a stupendous Majesty. Â
Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 155

COSMELIA.

Who can lament too much? O, who can mourn
Enough oâ€™er beautiful CAELESTIAâ€™s Urn!
So great a Loss as this deserves Excess
Of Sorrow; allâ€™s too little, that is less.
But to supply the Universal Woe, Â
Â Â
Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 160
Tears from all Eyes, without Cessation flow:
All that have powâ€™r to weep, or voice to groan,
With throbbing Breast CAELESTIAâ€™s fate bemoan:
While Marble Rocks the common Griefs partake,
And eccho back those Cries they cannot make. Â
Â Â Â 165

STREPHON.

Weep then (once fruitful) Vales, and spring with Yew;
Ye thirsty barren Mountains, weep with Dew.
Let evâ€™ry Flowâ€™r on this extended Plain
Not droop, but shrink into its Womb again,
Neâ€™er to receive anew its yearly Birth; Â
Â Â
Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 170
Let evâ€™ry thing thatâ€™s grateful, leave the Earth:
Let mournful Cypress, with each noxious Weed,
And baneful Venoms in their place succeed.
Ye purling querâ€™lous Brooks, oâ€™erchargâ€™d with Grief
Haste swiftly to the Sea for more Relief;
Then tiding back, each to his sacred Head, Â
Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 175
Tell your astonishâ€™d Springs, CAELESTIAâ€™s dead:

COSMELIA.

Well have you sung, in an exalted Strain,
The fairest Nymph eâ€™er gracâ€™d the *British* Plain.
Who knows but some officious Angel may

Your grateful Numbers to her Ears convey: Â
Â Â Â Â Â Â 180

That she may smile upon us, from above,
And bless our mournful Plains with Peace and Love.

STREPHON.

But see, our Flocks do to their Folds repair,
For Night with sable Clouds obscures the Air,
Cold Damps descend from the unwholesome Sky, Â
Â Â Â 185

And Safety bids us to our Cottage fly.
Tho'™ with each Morn our Sorrows will return,
Each Ev'™n, like Nightingales, we'™ll sing and mourn,
Till Death conveys Us to the peaceful Urn.

NOTES:

1Â *Strephon* Stock pastoral name for a shepherd; *Fold* †A pen or enclosure for domestic animals, esp. sheep† (OED).

3 Cypress †A well-known coniferous tree†often regarded as symbolic of mourning†(OED).

4Â *Cosmelia* Pastoral name for a woman.

20 *Caelestia* Pomfret†™s poetical name for Queen Mary II, from †Caelestis† which means sky or heavenly (†A Latin Dictionary).

20-22 †Æshe†™s dead!...untimely slain†Queen Mary II died on 28 December 1694 from smallpox.

25 *Swains* †Countrymen†(OED).

41 *Rural Numbers* That is, rural poetry.

54 *Damon* Stock pastoral name.

80 *to foreign Wars was gone* William III, Mary†™s husband, was often gone handling affairs on the continent and left Mary to rule alone (†Encyclopedia Britannica).

94 *Bellegier* Pomfret†™s poetical name for William III; in modern Dutch the word translates as †investor;† from *War†™s Alarms* William III fought and squashed a Jacobite rebellion on the continent, and participated in the Nine Years†™ War (1688-1697) against Louis XIV of France (†Encyclopedia Britannica).

114-15 *when a Crown was forced on her†/submitted to be Great* The Glorious Revolution of 1688 deposed James II, Mary†™s father. As a result of her supporting her husband William invading England, Mary and her father were estranged (†Encyclopedia Britannica).

117 *Pan* The god of nature.

121 *Felicity* Happiness (*OED*).

133 *Maugre* â€œTo defy, opposeâ€•(*QED*).

137 *Vicegerent* â€œA person appointed by a king or other ruler to act in his place or exercise certain of his administrative functionsâ€•(*QED*).

145 *Archangel* â€œAn angel of the highest rankâ€•(*QED*).

148 *Elijah* A prophet who defended the worship of the Jewish God; in 2 Kings 2:1-11, Elijah is transported to heaven by a whirlwind.

166 *Yew* An ancient tree common in England; often planted in churchyards and symbolic of funerary and death.

Source: *Poems upon Several Occasions*, 7th edition (London, 1727), p. 48. [Hathi Trust]

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