Mary Masters, â??To Lucindaâ?•

Description

MARY MASTERS

â??*To* Lucindaâ?•

LUCINDA, you in vain disswade
Two Hearts from mutual Love.
What amâ??rous Youth, or tender Maid
Could eâ??er their Flames remove?

What, if the Charms in him I see
Only exist in Thought:
Yet CUPIDâ??S like the *Medes* Decree,
Is firm and changeth not.

Seek not to know my Passionâ??s spring,
The Reason to discover:
For Reason is an useless Thing,
When weâ??ve commencâ??d the Lover.

Should Lovers quarrel with their Fate,
And ask the Reason why,
They are condemnâ??d to doat on That,
Or for This Object die?

They must not hope for a Reply,
And this is all they know;
They sigh, and weep, and rave, and die,
Because it must be so.

LOVE is a mighty God you know,
That rules with potent Sway:
And, when he draws his awful Bow,
We Mortals must obey.

Since you the fatal Strife endurâ??d,
And yielded to his Dart:
How can I hope to be securâ??d,
And guard a weaker Heart?

NOTES:

1 *disswade* Variation of dissuade â??to give advice againstâ?• (*OED*).

7 *CUPIDâ??S* The Roman God of love, son of Venus; often appears as an infant with wings carrying a bow, and arrows that have the power to inspire love in those they pierce (*EncyclopÃ¦dia Britannica*); *Medes Decree* Refers to the laws of the Medes and Persians, â??Medesâ?• being an ancient Indo-European people whose empire encompassed most of Persia; in the Bible, â??laws of the Medesâ?• is a proverbial phrase meaning, â??something that is unalterableâ?• (*OED*).

21 *LOVE* The God of love, Cupid.

22 *Sway* â??Powerâ?• (*OED*).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London: T. Browne, 1733), pp. 151-53. [Hathi Trust]

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