

Aphra Behn, "The Dream. A Song"

Description

APHRA BEHN

•The Dream. A Song•

I.

The Grove was gloomy all around,
Murm'ring the Streams did pass,
Where fond *Astrea* laid her down
Upon a Bed of Grass.

I slept and saw a piteous sight, Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 5
Cupid a weeping lay,
Till both his little Stars of Light
Had wept themselves away.

II.

Methought I ask'd him why he cry'd,
My Pity led me on: Â 10
All sighing the sad Boy reply'd,
Alas I am undone!

As I beneath yon Myrtles lay,
Down by *Diana's* Springs,
Amyntas stole my Bow away, Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 15
And Pinion'd both my Wings.

III.

Alas ! cry'd I, 'twas then thy Darts
Wherewith he wounded me:
Thou Mighty *Deity* of Hearts,
He stole his Pow'r from thee. Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 20

Revenge thee, if a God thou be,
Upon the *Amorous Swain*;
I'll set thy Wings at Liberty,
And thou shalt fly again.

IV.

And for this Service on my Part, ^ 25
 All I implore of thee,
 Is, That thouâ€™t wound *Amyntas* Heart,
 And make him die for me.

His Silken Fetters I Untyâ€™d,
 And the gay Wings displayâ€™d; ^ 30
 Which gently fannâ€™d, he mounts and cryâ€™d,
 Farewelâ€™ fond easie Maid.

V.

At this I blushâ€™d, and angry grew
 I should a God believe;
 And waking found my Dream too true; ^ 35
 Alas I was a Slave.

NOTES:

3 *Astrea* â€™ Goddess of justice and virtueâ€™ (*Dictionary of Classical Mythology*). ^ Also Behnâ€™s poetic name for herself.

6 *Cupid* â€™ God of loveâ€™ (*OED*).

13 *Myrtles* â€™ Various evergreen shrubs or small treesâ€™ (*OED*).

14 *Diana* â€™ Goddess of wild animals and the huntâ€™ (*Britannica*).

15 *Amyntas* Here a pastoral name for a swain.

16 *Pinion*â€™d â€™ Clipped wingsâ€™ (*OED*).

22 *Swain* â€™ Country loverâ€™ (*OED*).

29 *Fetters* Restraints (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems upon Several Occasions: With A Voyage to the Island of Love* (London 1684), pp. 78-80. [Google Books]

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