

Ann Murry, "An Ode"

Description

ANN MURRY

An Ode

Beneath a Willow's mournful shade,
Fair Ariadne lay;
A cheerless, solitary maid,
Tho' once content and gay.

In tender accents thus I spoke, 5
To ease her labring breast:
Dost thou complain of promise broke?
Art thou by want oppress'd?

Can I thy wounded heart relieve,
By pity's healing balm? 10
Or if some faithless youth deceive,
Thy perturbations calm?

"Ah no" (she said) "hard is my fate,
From lovely Theseus torn;
Thy consolation comes too late, 15
His absence thus I mourn.

The beams I shun of chearing day,
To Luna hence complain;
Like Philomel in mournful lay,
Pour forth my plaintive strain. 20

Remembrance sad, of former joys,
Is ever in my sight;
The cruel Phantom which destroys
My peace both day and night.

Thus am I plung'd in fell despair, 25
As Love my anguish mocks;
With sighs I rend the fragrant air,
Implore unpitying rocks.

Depend on him, whose pow'r alone,
Can give substantial rest;
Aspire to reach his heav'nly throne,
A meek and welcome guest.

NOTES:

2,14 *Ariadne/Theseus* Star-crossed lovers of Greek mythology; Ariadne hangs herself after being abandoned by Theseus (*Britannica*).

12 *perturbations* "The disturbance of the regular state of a thing" (*OED*).

18 *Luna* The moon.

19 *Philomel* The nightingale.

20 *plaintive strain* Mournful song (*OED*).

23 *Phantom* "Something not real but appearing to the imagination" (Johnson).

25 *fell* "Intensely painful or destructive" (*OED*).

32 *Sparks of celestial fire* Interest in a love of God.

34 *cank'ring* From "canker," meaning to "spread harmfully and insidiously" (*OED*).

41 *Impetuous* "Acting with or marked by great sudden or rash energy; passionate, ardent" (*OED*).

50 *boon* "A favour, in response to asking" (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems on Various Subjects* (London, 1779), pp. 35-39. [Google Books]

Edited by Molly Davies

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