Anonymous, â??Thoughts on Lifeâ?•

Description

ANONYMOUS

â??THOUGHTS *on* LIFEâ?•

LIFE! thou dead, deceitful guest!
Precious trifle! ferious jest!
Drawn by thee, we roam below,
Pilgrims, throâ?? a vale of woe:
Toiling or by land or seas,
Strangers to the balm of ease!
Slaves to pleasure, tumult, gain,
O thou bitterâ??sweet to man!
In thy train, thy belt of friends,
Hope, fallacious fair! attends;
Hope, a thin, a shadâ??wy elf!
Hope, true image of thyself;
When against thy powâ??r we rise,
Rousâ??d to rage, to mutinies!
When we aim the fatal stroke,
Ready to throw off thy yoke;
She the lifted hand arrests,
Fills with food of courts our breasts;
Anew we own our former lord,
To thee, and to ourselves, restorâ??d.

NOTES:

2 *ferious* Variant of â??furious.â?•

7 *tumult* â??Commotion of a multitude, usually with confused speech or uproar; public disturbance; disorderly or riotous proceedingâ?• *(OED).*

10 f*allacious* â??Deceptive, misleadingâ?• *(OED).*

11 *Shadâ??wy elf* A â??wandering spirit; a devilâ?• *(*Johnson*).*

16 *yoke â??*A bond; a mark of servitude; slaveryâ?• *(*Johnson*).*

Source: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine*, (December 1744), p. 671.

Edited by Henry Bettencourt