Lady Mary Chudleigh, â??Icarusâ?•

Description

LADY MARY CHUDLEIGH

â??Icarusâ?•

Whilst *â??Icarusâ??* his Wings preparâ??d
His trembling Father for him fearâ??d:
And thus to him sighing said,
O let paternal Love persuade :
With me, my dearest Son, comply,
And do not proudly soar too high:
For near,â?? *Apollo*â??s â??scorching Heat,
Will on thy Wings too fiercely beat :
And soon dissolve the waxen Ties.
Nor loiter in the lower Skies,
Least Steams should from the Land arise,
And damp thy Plumes, and check thy Flight.
And plunge thee into gloomy Night.

Thâ?? ambitious Youth led on by Pride,
Did all this good Advice deride;
And smiling, rashly soarâ??d on high;
Too near the Source of Light did fly;
A while, well pleasâ??d, he wantonâ??d there,
Rejoicing breathâ??d AEthereal Air:
But ah! the Pleasure soon was past,
The Transport was too great to last:
His Wings dropt off, and down he came
Into that Sea which keeps his Name.

His grieving Father saw him drownâ??d,
And sent loud moving Crys around:
Ah! wretched Youth, he weeping said,
Thouâ??rt now a dire Example made,
Of those who with ungovernâ??d Heat
Aspire to be supremely great;
Who from obscure Beginnings rise,
And swoln with Pride, Advice despise;
Mount up with hast above their Sphere,
And no superior Powâ??rs revere.

O may thy Fall be useful made,
May it to humbler Thoughts persuade :
To Men thâ?? avoidless Danger Show
Of those who fly too high, or low;
Who from the Paths of Virtue stray,
And keep not in the middle Way :
Who singe their Wings with heavâ??nly Fire;
Amidst their glorious Hopes expire:
Or with a base and groveling Mind
Are to the Clods of Earth confinâ??d.

NOTES:

Titleâ?? *â??Icarus â??*The son of â??Daedalus, who escaped from Crete using wings made by his father but was killed when he flew too near the sun and the wax attaching his wings melted (â??*OCD*).

7 â??*Apollo* â??Greek god of the sun.

12 â??*Plumes* â??â?? Feathers collectivelyâ?• (*OED*).

19 *â??AEthereal* â??Of or relating to the highest regions of the atmosphereâ?• (*OED*).

23â?? *Sea which keeps his Name* Tâ??his is the Icarian Sea, located just north of the island of Ikaria.

Source: â??*Poems on Several Occasions* (â?? London, 1703), pp. 70-72. [Google Books]

Edited by Natalie Fregoso