Mary Barber, â??Jupiter and Fortune. A Fableâ?•

Description

MARY BARBER

â??Jupiter and Fortune. A Fableâ?•

Once JUPITER, from out the Skies,
Beheld a thousand Temples rise;
The Goddess FORTUNE all invokâ??d,
To JOVE an Altar seldom smoakâ??d:
The God resolvâ??d to make Inspection,
What had occasionâ??d this Defection;
And bid the Goddess tell the Arts,
By which she won deluded Hearts.

My Arts! (says she) Great JOVE, you know,
That I do evâ??ry Thing below:
I make my Votâ??ries dine on Plate;
I give the gilded Coach of State;
Bestow the glittâ??ring Gems, that deck
The fair LAVINIAâ??S lovely Neck;
I make NOVELLA Natureâ??s Boast,
And raise VALERIA to a Toast;
â??Tis I, who give the Stupid, Taste,
(Or make the Poets lie, at least);
My favâ??rite Sons, wheneâ??er they please,
Can Palaces in Desarts raise,
Cut out Canals, make Fountains play,
And make the dreary Waste look gay;
Evâ??n Vice seems Virtue by my Smiles;
I gild the Villianâ??s gloomy Wiles,
Nay, almost raise him to a God,
While crowded Levees wait his Nod.

ENOUGHâ?? the Thunderer replyâ??d;
But say, whom have you satisfyâ??d?
These boasted Gifts are thine, I own;
But know, Content is mine alone.

NOTES:

Title *Jupiter* â??Known as â??Joveâ?? is the god of sky and thunder in Ancient Roman Mythology and the chief of the gods. Father of Fortuna and great protectorâ?•(*Britannica*); *Fortune* Fortuna is the goddess of fortune and luck in ancient Roman mythology.

11 *Votâ??ries â??*A devoted or zealous worshipper of a particular god [or] goddessâ?• (*OED*).

16 *Toast* â??The reigning belle of the seasonâ?• (*OED*).

26 *Levees â??*A morning assembly held by a prince or a person of distinctionâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: ***Poems on Several Occasions*** **(London, 1735), pp. 63-64. [Google Books]**

Edited by Raven Valdivia