

Anne Finch, "Cupid and Folly"

Description

ANNE FINCH

"Cupid and Folly"
Imitated from the FRENCH

Cupid, ere depriv'd of Sight, Young and apt for all Delight, Met with <i>Folly</i> on the way, As Idle, and as fond of Play. In gay Sports the time they pass;	5
Now run, now wrestle on the Grass; Their painted Wings then nimbly ply, And ev'ry way for Mast'ry try: Till a Contest do's arise, Who has won th' appointed Prize.	10
Gentle <i>Love</i> refers the Case To the next, that comes in Place; Trusting to his flatt'ring Wiles, And softens the Dispute with Smiles. But <i>Folly</i> , who no Temper knows,	15
Words pursues with hotter Blows: Till the Eyes of <i>Love</i> were lost, Which has such Pain to Mortals cost. <i>Venus</i> hears his mournful Crys, And repeats 'em, in the Skys,	20
To <i>Jupiter</i> in Council set, With Peers for the Occasion met; In her Arms the Boy she bears, Bathing him in falling Tears; And whilst his want of Eyes is shown,	25
Secures the Judges by her Own. <i>Folly</i> to the Board must come, And hear the Tryal and the Doom; Which <i>Cytherea</i> loudly prays May be as heavy as the Case:	30
Which, when All was justly weigh'd, <i>Cupid's</i> Wings now useless made, That a Staff, his Feet must guide, Which wou'd still be apt to slide; This Decree at last was read,	35
That <i>Love</i> by <i>Folly</i> shou'd be lead.	

NOTES:

1 *Cupid* — Roman god of love (Britannica), often rendered in iconography as blindfolded or blind.

3 *Folly* — Foolishness; 'unwise conduct' (OED).

19 *Venus* Roman goddess of love, mother of Cupid (Britannica).

21 *Jupiter* Roman god of the sky (Britannica).

29 *Cytherea* Another name for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love.

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1714), pp. 135-136. [HathiTrust]

Edited by Hannah Heiden