

Aphra Behn, "The Dream. A Song"

Description

APHRA BEHN

•The Dream. A Song•

I.

The Grove was gloomy all around,  
Murm'ring the Streams did pass,  
Where fond *Astrea* laid her down  
Upon a Bed of Grass.

I slept and saw a piteous sight,   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   5  
*Cupid* a weeping lay,  
Till both his little Stars of Light  
Had wept themselves away.

II.

Methought I ask'd him why he cry'd,  
My Pity led me on:   Â   10  
All sighing the sad Boy reply'd,  
Alas I am undone!

As I beneath yon Myrtles lay,  
Down by *Diana's* Springs,  
*Amyntas* stole my Bow away,   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   15  
And Pinion'd both my Wings.

III.

Alas ! cry'd I, 'twas then thy Darts  
Wherewith he wounded me:  
Thou Mighty *Deity* of Hearts,  
He stole his Pow'r from thee.   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   20

Revenge thee, if a God thou be,  
Upon the *Amorous Swain*;  
I'll set thy Wings at Liberty,  
And thou shalt fly again.

IV.

And for this Service on my Part, 25  
All I implore of thee,  
Is, That thou'ſt wound *Amyntas* Heart,  
And make him die for me.

His Silken Fetters I Unty'd,  
And the gay Wings display'd; 30  
Which gently fann'd, he mounts and cry'd,  
Farewel! fond easie Maid.

V.

At this I blush'd, and angry grew  
I should a God believe;  
And waking found my Dream too true; 35  
Alas I was a Slave.

**NOTES:**

**3** *Astrea* – Goddess of justice and virtue (*Dictionary of Classical Mythology*). Also Behn's poetic name for herself.

**6** *Cupid* – God of love (*OED*).

**13** *Myrtles* – Various evergreen shrubs or small trees (*OED*).

**14** *Diana* – Goddess of wild animals and the hunt (*Britannica*).

**15** *Amyntas* Here a pastoral name for a swain.

**16** *Pinion'd* – Clipped wings (*OED*).

**22** *Swain* – Country lover (*OED*).

**29** *Fetters* Restraints (*OED*).

**SOURCE:** *Poems upon Several Occasions: With A Voyage to the Island of Love* (London 1684), pp. 78-80.  
[Google Books]

*Edited by Madina Tutakhil*