Elizabeth Carter, â??Written at Midnight in a Thunderstorm. Toâ??â??â??

Description

ELIZABETH CARTER

â??Written at Midnight in a Thunderstorm. To â??â??â??â??

Let coward Guilt with pallid Fear,
To sheltâ??ring Caverns fly,
And justly dread the vengeful Fate,
That thunders throâ?? the Sky.

Protected by that Hand, whose Law
The threatâ??ning Storms obey,
Intrepid Virtue smiles secure,
As in the Blaze of Day.

In the thick Clouds tremendous Gloom,
The Lightâ??nings lurid Glare,
It views the same all-gracious Powâ??r,
That breathes the vernal Air.

Throâ?? Natureâ??s ever varying Scene,
By diffâ??rent Ways pursuâ??d,
The one eternal End of Heavâ??n
Is universal Good.

The same unchanging Mercy rules
When flaming AEther glows,
As when it tunes the Linnetâ??s Voice,
Or blushes in the Rose.

By Reason taught to scorn those Fears
That vulgar Minds molest;
Let no fantastic Terrors break
My dear *Narcissa*â??s Rest.

Thy Life may all the tendâ??rest Care
Of Providence defend;
And delegated Angels round
Their guardian Wings extend.

When, throâ?? Creationâ??s vast Expanse,
The last dread Thunders roll,

Untune the Concord of the Spheres,
And shake the rising Soul:

Unmovâ??d mayst thou the final Storm,
Of jarring Worlds survey,
That ushers in the glad Serene
Of everlasting Day.

NOTES:

1 *pallid* â??Lacking depth or intensityâ?• (*OED*).

18 *Aether* In ancient cosmological speculation: an element conceived as filling all space beyond the sphere of the moon, and being the constituent substance of the stars and planets and of their spheres (*OED*).

19 *Linnet â??*A common and well-known songbirdâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions.* Second Edition (London, 1766), pp. 36-37. [Google Books]

Edited by Wyatt Forsyth