

Elizabeth Ryves, "Ode to Friendship"•

Description

ELIZABETH RYVES

•Ode to Friendship•

I.

Fond LOVE, with all his winning wiles
Of tender looks and flattering smiles;
Of accents that might Juno charm,
Or Dianâs colder ear alarm;
No more shall play the tyrantâs part, 5
No more shall lord it oâer my heart.

II.

To Friendship (sweet benignant Power!)
I consecrate my humble bower,
My lute, my muse, my willing mind,
And fix her in my heart enshrined : 10
She, Heaven-descended Queen! shall be
My tutelar Divinity.

III.

Soft Peace descends to guard her reign
From anxious fear and jealous pain:
She no delusive hope displays, 15
But calmly guides our tranquil days;
Refines our pleasure, soothes our care,
And gives the joys of Eden here.

NOTES:

3 *accents* â Language or wordsâ (Johnson); *Juno* Ancient Roman deity, âchief goddess and female counterpart of Jupiterâ (Encyclopedia Britannica).

4 *Dianâs* Ancient Roman deity, âthe moon-goddess, patroness of virginity and of huntingâ (OED).

8 *bower* â A vague poetic word for an idealized abodeâ (OED).

12 *tutelar* â Having the charge or guardianship of any person or thingâ (Johnson).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1777), pp. 63-64. [Google Books]

Edited by Nargis Srejan