

Come, holy Wisdom, favâ??rite gift of God! 25
 With thine attendant grace, Humility;
 Descend, bright visitant! and make abode
 Where museful Melancholy waits for thee.
 Ah, what avails fair Indiaâ??s shining store,
 The purple treasures of the gorgeous East? 30
 What joy, to quit the charms of regal power,
 To dwell with thee, thou soul-enlightâ??ning guest!

Not the attractive voice of worldly fame,
 Nor syren sound of dullest flattery,
 Could tempt my heart thy labours to disclaim, 35
 Or slight the blessings that belong to thee.
 How has my soul in secret wish preferred
 The lonely walk and solitary shade,
 The painted vanities of life abhorred,
 And all the pageantry that pomp displays! 40

Joyless the gilded equipage I view'd,
 The dull variety of senseless show;
 The world's gay path without delight pursued,
 Nor felt the transports that from grandeur flow.
 Slave to the wretched world's imposing forms, 45
 See Sacharissa deck'd in gold brocade;
 She owns that grandeur has no real charms,
 And sighs for virtue in the sylvan shade.

NOTES:

28 *â??museful* *â??*•Absorbed in thought; thoughtful, pensiveâ??• (OED).

30 *â??purple* *â??*•Characterized by richness or abundance; splendid, gloriousâ??• (OED).

34 *â??syren* *â??* Greek mythology creature that lured sailors to their deaths with its enchanting song.

46 *â??Sacharissa* *â??* possibly a reference to Lady Dorothy Sidney (1617-1684), the beloved *â??Sacharissaâ??*• of many love lyrics by Edmund Waller (1606-1687). In one portrait by Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641), she appears as a finely dressed shepherdess.

Source: *Original Poems, on Various Occasions. By a Lady* (London 1792), pp.11-13. [Google Books]

Edited by Grazzia Menendez