

Anonymous, "Upon the sight of a Fair Ladies Breech, discovered at her being turned over in a Coach"

Description

ANONYMOUS

Upon the sight of a Fair Ladies Breech, discovered at her being turned over in a Coach

Translated out of French.

I.
I Yield, I yield, fair *Phillis*, now
My Heart must to your Empire bow;
I am your Prisoner, for I find
You have Conquered both my Will and Reason;
But you surprized me behind, 5
And is not that a kind of Treason?

II.
Against your Eyes I plac'd a Guard,
And kept my Freedom, though 'twere hard
Withstanding that most tempting Face;
When finding I again drew
near, 10
You chang'd your Ambush, and did place
Your murdering *Cupids* in your Rear.

III.
At this first sight my heart did yield,
For every glance did pierce my Shield:
The fairest Face it did outbid. 15
Could I resist my Fate, or Stars,
When this slye enemy lay hid
So close, and took me unawares?

IV.
It seiz'd me both with love and fear,
Seeing so many beauties there;
20
And brought me, fond fool, to that pass,

IX.

’Tis true, I fear has some defects

Will trouble me in these respects: 50

For it is very coy and shy,
Harder than the white Rock to break;
Nor hath it either Ear or Eye,
And’s very rarely heard to speak.

X.

But so I love it, that my Verse 55

Shall to the World its praise rehearse;
Whilst dayly I will make resort
To pay my homage to this Queen,
Who leaves behind her this report
Of th’sweetest Beauty e’re was seen. 60

XI.

O hide it then from all but me,
For were’t unavail’d still, Gods would be
My Rivals, and desend anew;
Who (though they sit on Stars above)
They sit on meaner Thrones than you; 65
For your Breech is the Throne of Love.

NOTES:

- 1 **Title** *Breech* – The buttocks, posteriors, rump, seat (OED).
- 1 **Phyllis** – A pretty country girl; a female sweetheart (OED).
- 12 **murthering** Murdering; *Cupids* Representation of the god of love as beautiful young boys (OED).
- 17 **slye** – Sly (OED).
- 22 **Persian-like** A possible reference to withdrawal of the Persian Army and Navy from Greece toward the end of the Greco-Persian Wars in 479 BC (Encyclopedia Britannica).
- 25 **Phoebus** – Apollo as the god of light or of the sun; the sun personified (OED).
- 21 **Satyrs** Part-man, part-beast demi-gods associated with Bacchus (OED).
- 32 **Graces** – The three beautiful sister goddesses the attendants of Aphrodite, regarded as the givers of beauty and charm (OED).
- 33 **Zephyrus** – The west wind personified, or the god of the west wind (OED).

35 *Flora* – In Latin mythology, the goddess of flowers (QED). Married to Zephyrus.

36 *You-know-what* – Used in place of something the speaker is unable or does not care to specify (QED). Here, the subject's™ buttocks.

40 *Narcissus* – A beautiful youth who fell in love with his own reflection in water and pined to death (QED).

47 *Meen* – Ceremonial forms viewed as the agency by which divine grace is imparted to the soul (QED).

52 *the white Rock* – Chalk cliffs, spec. those of Dover, regarded as a symbol of Great Britain (QED). The White Cliffs of Dover historically guarded England from outside invasion.

Source: *A New Collection of Poems and Songs* (London, 1674), pp. 117-120. [Google Books]

Edited by Echo Rowe