

George Woodward, "On the Death of a Monkey"

Description

GEORGE WOODWARD

"On the Death of a Monkey"

Poor *Pug* is dead! the briskest Thing on Earth,
Harmless and kind, but wanton from his Birth:
Grave was his Look, and Politick his Mien,
Easy and Gay, a Stranger to the Spleen!
No State-Affairs disturb'd his downy Rest, 5
Nor Party-Zeal rais'd Tumults in his Breast:
Perhaps, he griev'd Himself to Death to see
So many *Brother-Apes* preferr'd, and He
Left here behind, in such a low Degree.

NOTES:

- 1 *Pug* "A monkey, an ape" (OED).
- 2 *wanton* "Undisciplined, ungoverned; rebellious" (OED).
- 3 *Mien* "The bearing, character, appearance, or instinct of an animal" (OED).
- 4 *spleen* "Excessive dejection or depression of spirits" (OED).
- 5 *downy Rest* Sleep.
- 6 *Party-Zeal* Partisan political passion; or strong feeling toward a particular political stance (OED); *Tumults* "Great disturbance or agitation of mind or feeling" (OED).
- 9 *Degree* "A stage or position in the scale of dignity or rank" (OED).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (Oxford, 1730), p. 130. [Google Books]

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