

William Broome, "Courage in Love"

Description

WILLIAM BROOME

“Courage in Love”

My Eyes with Floods of Tears overflow,
My Bosom heaves with constant Woe;
Those Eyes, which thy Unkindness swells,
That Bosom, where thy Image dwells!

How could I hope so weak a Flame
Could ever warm that matchless Dame,
When none *Elysium* must behold,
Without a radiant Bough of Gold?
’Tis hers, in Spheres to shine,
At distance to admire, is mine:
Doom, like thine enamour’d Youth, to groan
For a new Goddess form of Stone.

While thus I spoke, Love’s gentle Power
Descended from thine Aethereal Bow;
A Quiver at his Shoulder hung,
A Shaft he grasp’d, and Bow unstrung.
All Nature own’d and genial God,
And the Spring flourish’d where he trod:
My Heart, no Stranger to the Guest,
Flutter’d, and labour’d in my Breast;
When with a Smile that kindles Joy
Evens in the Gods, began the Boy:

How vain these Tears? is Man decreed,
By being abject, to succeed?
Hop’st thou by meagre Looks to move?
Are Women frighten’d into Love?
He most prevails who nobly dares;
In Love an Hero, as in Wars:
Evens *Venus* may be known to yield,
But ’tis when *Mars* disputes the
Field:
Sent from a daring Hand my Dart
Strikes deep into the Fair-one’s Heart:

To Winds and Waves thy Cares bequeath,
 A Sign, is but a waste of Breath:
 What tho'™ gay Youth, and every Grace 35
 That Beauty boasts, adorn her Face,
 Yet Goddesses have deign'™d to wed,
 And take a Mortal to their Bed:
 And Heav'™n, when Gifts of Incense rise,
 Accepts it, tho'™ it cloud their Skies. 40

Mark! how this Marygold conceals
 Her Beauty, and her Bosom veils,
 How from the dull Embrace she flies
 Of *Phoebus*, when his Beams arise;
 But when his Glory he displays, 45
 And darts around his fiercer Rays,
 Her Charms she opens, and receives
 The vigorous God into her Leaves.

NOTES:

- 7 *Elysium* – The supposed state or abode of the blessed after death in Greek mythology (QED).
- 11 *Youth* – *Polyderus*, who pined to death for the Love of a beautiful Statue • [Author's note].
- 13 *Love's gentle Pow'r* – Cupid.
- 14 *Aethereal* – Of or relating to heaven, God, or the gods; heavenly, celestial (QED).
- 29 *Venus* – Roman goddess of beauty and love (QED).
- 30 *Mars* – The god of war of the ancient Romans (QED).
- 41 *Marygold* – A plant with golden or yellow flowers (QED).
- 44 *Phoebus* – Apollo as the god of light or of the sun; the sun personified (QED).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions, Second Edition (London, 1739), pp. 226-229.* [Google Books]

Edited by Charlie May