

Anne Finch, "Cupid and Folly"

Description

ANNE FINCH

â€œCupid and Follyâ€•
Imitated from the FRENCH

Cupid, ere deprivâ€™d of Sight,
Young and apt for all Delight,
Met with *Folly* on the way,
As Idle, and as fond of Play.

In gay Sports the time they
pass; 5

Now run, now wrestle on the Grass;
Their painted Wings then nimbly ply,
And evâ€™ry way for Mastâ€™ry try:

â€˜Till a Contest doâ€™s arise,
Who has won thâ€™ appointed
Prize. 10

Gentle *Love* refers the Case
To the next, that comes in Place;
Trusting to his flattâ€™ring Wiles,
And softens the Dispute with Smiles.

But *Folly*, who no Temper
knows, 15

Words pursues with hotter Blows:
â€˜Till the Eyes of *Love* were lost,
Which has such Pain to Mortals cost.

Venus hears his mournful Crys,
And repeats â€™em, in the Skys, 20

To *Jupiter* in Council set,
With Peers for the Occasion met;
In her Arms the Boy she bears,
Bathing him in falling Tears;
And whilst his want of Eyes is
shown, 25

Secures the Judges by her Own.
Folly to the Board must come,

And hear the Tryal and the Doom;

Which *Cytherea* loudly prays

May be as heavy as the Case: ^

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ 30

Which, when All was justly weighâ€™d,

Cupidâ€™s Wings now useless made,

That a Staff, his Feet must guide,

Which wouâ€™d still be apt to slide;

This Decree at last was read, ^

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ 35

That *Love* by *Folly* shouâ€™d be lead.

NOTES:

1 *Cupid* – Roman god of love (Britannica), often rendered in iconography as blindfolded or blind.

3 *Folly* – Foolishness (unwise conduct) (OED).

19 *Venus* Roman goddess of love, mother of Cupid (Britannica).

21 *Jupiter* Roman god of the sky (Britannica).

29 *Cytherea* Another name for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love.

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1714), pp. 135-136. [HathiTrust]

^ Edited by Hannah Heiden