William Dunkin M.A., â??Hymenâ??s Triumph, a Poemâ?•

Description

WILLIAM DUNKIN, M.A.

â??Hymenâ??s *Triumph*, a Poemâ?•
On the Marriage of Rev. Mr Richard Beauchamp to Miss Juliana Keatinge, Dublin, May 5, 1743

Once, *Hymen*, abusâ??d for the matches he made,
(Since beauty was barterâ??d, and wedlock a trade)
By *Pallas* instructed to pitch on a pair,
Joynâ??d *Dick* the facetious to *Julia* the fair.
So true was his passion, so decent her carriage,
Not even *Diana* could censure the marriage.
Apollo was charmâ??d with her mind, and his parts,
And tunâ??d the soft notes of his lute by their hearts:
The muses in chorus obeyâ??d his command,
And hymnâ??d to graces, who dancâ??d hand in hand.
The birds of the grove from the branches above
Sang spousal, and chatterâ??d the tydings of love.
To gather a garland, the nymphs and the fauns
Dismantled the meadows, the vallies and lawns:
The gay, living colours by *Flora* were wreathâ??d,
And *Zephyr* cool-sighâ??d to the odour she breathâ??d.
Vertumnus was present in garment of green,
And thus gayly spoke to the bloom-bearing queen.
â??Now the nymphs and the fauns may lavishly bring
The paintings of nature, and pride of the spring,
Fair emblems of beauty! *Vertumnus* employs
The season, to ripen more delicate joys,
Rich omens of issue! with blossoms you suit
The virgin; but I shall adorn her with fruit.â??
Then *Mercury* said, as he lookâ??d on the bride
With an envious eye, calling *Venus* aside,
â??Alas, idle maid! what a part hath she acted,
To wed with a parson? â??it makes me distracted:
My measures are broken, my purposes crost:
I meant her a lordâ??- but her market is lost.
Her sisters are like her: She gives us a sample,
And copies exactly her motherâ??s example:
It flows from the fountain: Her blood must inherit
This oddness of chusing out men for their merit.
Well, since she rejected the baits of my store
Adieu to the pleasures of Sweet *Nora more*â??

Quoth *Venus*, â??You have little cause to repine,
The chief disappointment and anguish are mine,
You meant her a title of *honour* and *pence*,
I meant her a beau â?? but she truckled to *sense*.
I long since might know, she would baffle my sport,
For, brother, I never could bring her to court.
Yet *Cupid*, to whom I committed her beauty,
Was blindly defective in doing his duty.â??
â??Arraign not thy *Cupid,â??* glad *Hymen* replies,
â??For once he hath shewn, that his godship has eyes.â??

NOTES:

1 *Hymen* Greek God of marriage (*Britannica*).

3 *Pallas* Another name for the Greek goddess, Athena, deity of war (*Britannica*).

6 *Diana â??*In Roman religion, goddess of wild animals and the hunt, identified with the Greek goddess Artemisâ?• (*Britannica*).

7 *Apollo* Though Apollo is formally known from different sources as god of several ideas (poetry, music, song, dance, sun, light, reason, etc.) here he is referred to as the deity of reason and music (*Britannica*).

13 *fauns* â??In Roman mythology, a creature that is part human and part goatâ?• (*Britannica*).

15 *Flora* Roman goddess of flowering plants (*Britannica*).

16 *Zephyr* A gentle breeze, shortened from Zephyrus the greek god of the west wind.

17 *Vertumnus* Roman god of metamorphoses in nature and life (*Britannica*).

25 *Mercury* Roman god of shopkeepers and merchants (*Britannica*).

26 *Venus* Roman goddess of love and fertility (*Britannica*).

28 *parson* A â??beneficed member of the clergy of the Church of Englandâ?• (*OED*).

29 *crost* Variation of crossed (*OED*).

36 *pleasures of Sweet Nora* Possibly a reference to the ancient Italian town of Nora that was well known for its fine theater and baths (*Britannica*).

40 *beau* Male companion (*OED*); *truckled â??*Submitâ?• (*OED*).

43 *Cupid* Roman god of love; often depicted as blind or blindfolded (*Britannica*).

45 *Arraign* â??To find fault withâ?• (*OED*).

46 *shewn* Variation of shown (*OED).*

SOURCE: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine*, vol. 13 (May 1743), p. 268. [Google Books]

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