

Mary Leapor, "A Summer's Wish"

Description

MARY LEAPOR

"A Summer's Wish"

My Guardian, bear me on thy downy Wing
To some cool Shade where infant Flow'rs spring;
Where on the Trees sweet Honey-suckles blow,
And ruddy Daisies paint the Ground below :
Where the shrill Linnet charms the solemn Shade, 5
And Zephyrs pant along the cooler Glade,
Or shake the Bull-rush by a River Side,
While the gay Sun-beams sparkle on the Tide:
O for some Grot whose rustick Sides declare, 10
Ease, and not Splendor, was the Builder's Care;
Where Roses spread their unaffected Charms,
And the curl'd Vine extends their clasping Arms;
Where happy Silence lulls the quiet Soul,
And makes it calm as Summer Waters roll.
Here let me learn to check each growing Ill, 15
And bring to Reason disobedient Will;
To watch this incoherent Breast, and find
What favorite Passions rule the giddy Mind.

Here no Reproaches grate the wounded Ear;
We see delighted, and transported hear, 20
While the glad Warblers wanton round the Trees,
And the still Waters catch the dying Breeze,
Grief waits without, and melancholy Gloom:
Come, cheerful Hope, and fill the vacant Room;
Come every Thought, which Virtue gave to please; 25
Come smiling Health with thy Companion Ease:
Let these, and all that Virtue's self attends,
Bless the still Hours of my gentle Friends:
Peace to my Foes, if any such there be,
And gracious Heaven give Repose to me. 30

NOTES:

1 downy "Covered in fine, soft hair or feathers" (OED).

5 *Linnet* — A common and well-known song-bird (OED).

6 *Zephyrs* Gentle breezes.

7 *Bull-rush* — A tall reed-like water plant with strap-like leaves and a dark brown velvety cylindrical head of numerous tiny flowers (OED).

30 *Repose* — Give rest to (OED).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1748), p. 21. [Google Books]

Edited by Krishna Manne