

Matthew Prior, "Hymn to the Sun"

Description

MATTHEW PRIOR

•Hymn to the Sun•

Set by Dr. PURCEL,

And Sung before their Majesties on New-Year's Day, 1693/4.

Light of the World, and Ruler of the Year,
With happy Speed begin thy great Career;
And, as thou dost thy radiant Journeys run,
Through every distant Climate, own,

That in fair Albion thou hast seen

The greatest Prince, the brightest Queen,
That ever sav'd a Land, or blest a Throne,
Since first thy Beams were spread, or Genial Power was known.

So may thy Godhead be confest,
So the returning Year be blest,

As its Infant Months bestow
Springing Wreaths for William's Brow;
As its Summers Youth shall shed
Eternal Sweets around Maria's Head:

From the Blessings they bestow,

Our Times are dated, and our Aera's move;
They govern, and enlighten all below,
As Thou dost all above.

Â 5 *Albion* â€œThe nation of Britain or England, often with reference to past times, or to a Â romanticized concept of the nationâ€•(QED).

8 *Genial* â€œPleasantly warm or temperateâ€•(QED).

21 *Son of Jove* Mars, the Roman god of war, son of Jupiter and Juno (OCD).

23 *Delos* Remote Greek island where Leto gave birth to Apollo (OCD).

26 *Python* A huge serpent in Greek mythology, slain by Apollo at Delphi (*Britannica*).

35 Â *Nassau*â€™s A reference to William III, whose Dutch title was Prince of Orange-Nassau (*Britannica*).

55 *Eliza*â€™s Reign Queen Elizabeth I, reigned 1558-1603.

60 *fraught* â€œFilled; equipped withâ€•(QED).

70 *Muses* A reference to future poets.

78 *Lyre* â€œA musical instrument of ancient Greeceâ€•(*Britannica*).

Â SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1709), pp. 39-43. [HathiTrust]

Â Edited by Eric Sandoval

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