Anne Finch, â??Cupid and Follyâ?•

Description

ANNE FINCH

â??Cupid *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;
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.
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,
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,
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,
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:
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,
That *Love* by *Folly* shouâ??d be lead.

NOTES:

1 *Cupid* â??Roman god of loveâ?• (*Britannica*), often rendered in iconography as blindfolded or blind.

3 *Folly* â??Foolishnessâ?¦unwise conductâ?• (*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