Charlotte Lennox, â??A Pastoral, from the Song of Solomonâ?•

Description

[CHARLOTTE LENNOX]

â??A Pastoral, from the Song of Solomonâ?•

OH! tell me, thou who all my Soul inspires,
Source of my Joys, and Partner of my Fires,
By what clear Stream, or nigh what flowâ??ry Mead
Thy tender Flocks with wanton Pleasure feed:
Where does my Dear, my lovely Wandâ??rer stray;
Tell me, and guide my weary Steps that Way.

In vain I trace the Plains, each winding Grove;
No Swain directs me to my absent Love:
Close in the Covert of some Shade he lyes;
Some envious Shade conceals him from my Eyes:
Bear then my soft Complainings to his Ear;
Ye whisâ??pring Winds, let him my Accents hear;
The well-known Sounds will wake the lingering Swain,
And bring him panting to my Arms again.

Alas! not yet my cruel Love returns:
I rave; my Breast with jealous Fury burns:
Cold Tremblings seize on evâ??ry vital Part;
The Blood runs freezing to my panting Heart;
Dim Shadows swim before my closing Sight,
And my grievâ??d Soul prepares to take its Flight.

Hark; what sweet Accents breaks the ambient Air;
Sure â??tis my Loveâ??s melodious Voice I hear:
Now to my Arms my charming Shepherd flies;
Heaven to my Arms, and Transport to my Eyes,
Oh! on thy panting Breast let me recline,
And let thy folding Arms around me twine;
With Vows of Love my anxious Fears controul,
And whisper Ease to my distracted Soul.

Arise, my Love, the Enslaver cries,
My beauteous Maid, my lovely Fair, arise;
For lo, the Rain is oâ??er, the Winterâ??s past,
And balmy Sweets perfume the southern Blast,

Like thee, all Nature smiles; the Fields around,
Are with a new returning Verdure crownâ??d:
Hark what sweet Musick fills the vocal Grove;
Each featherâ??d Songster tunes its Notes to Love:
What Odours do these opâ??ning Buds exhale,
Yet cannot oâ??er thy greater Sweets prevail,
Or their enchanting Beauties thine excell.
That Lilly shines but with a borrowâ??d Grace,
And Roses blush to emulate thy Face;
Nor can the Violetâ??s admired Dye
Match the bright Azure of thy shining Eye;
See where you tread, fresh blooming Flowers arise,
New Charms appear whereâ??er you turn your Eyes;
For thee the Streams in softer Murmurs flow;
For thee sweet Airs the whispâ??ring *Zephirs* blow*;*
For thee the Cedars form a grateful Shade,
And brighter Colours paint thâ?? enamellâ??d Mead:
Oh! come then throâ?? these sweet *Meanders* stray;
Arise, my Love; my fair One, come away.

Yes, dearest Object of my soft Desire,
Thou sweet Inspirer of my endless Fire;
With thee Iâ??ll trace the Groves, each winding Mead,
And follow where thy charming Footsteps lead:
Yet let me view thee; on that lovely Face
Let me with fond extatic Rapture gaze;
Let thy Voice charm me with its Magick Sound,
And my fond Soul with thrilling Pleasure wound;
For sweetâ??s thy Beauties to my ravishâ??d Sight,
And thy dear Voice my listâ??ning Ears delight.

See on that Couch, with Natureâ??s Bounties spread,
At Ease reclinâ??d, my lovely Shepherdâ??s laid:
What Beauties in that smiling Form appear;
How soft, how mild, how more than heavenly fair.
Ye tender Virgins, awful Silence keep;
Ye sighing Gales prolong his balmy Sleep:
Thou sleepâ??st, my Love; but still thy waking Heart
Bears in my soft Inquietudes a Part.
My Image every present with thee seems,
Haunts all thy Slumbers, and informs thy Dreams,
In evâ??ry Wish, in evâ??ry Thought Iâ??m thine;
And oh! be thou for ever, ever mine.

Behold, he wakes, and here with Transport flies;
What streaming Glories sparkle from his Eyes:
Oh, turn them from me, hide their beauteous Beams;
The Sun with less refulgent Brightness gleams:

Do not such sweet, such magick Rays dispence,
Like powâ??rful Sweets they overcome my Sense;
Oh, set me, as a Seal upon thy Heart,
Markâ??d for my own, I claim the smallest Part;
Shouâ??dst Thou (but sure the wounding Thought is vain)
For any other lovely Maid complain;
Take from me, Heavâ??n, the fleeting Breath you gave,
For Loveâ??s as strong as Death, and powâ??rful as the Grave.

NOTES:

Title *Song of Solomon* A Biblical reference; â??This book has no theology â?? it is devoted instead to a single subject, the love and passion between woman and manâ?• *(*Carl W. Ernest, *â??*Interpreting the Songs of Songs: The Paradox of Spiritual and Sensual Love,*â?• UNC Chapel Hill (http://www.unc.edu/%7Ecernst/sosintro.htm*).

4 *wanton* **â??**Undisciplined, ungoverned; unmanageable, rebelliousâ?• *(OED).*

8 *Swain* â??A country gallant or lover; a lover, wooer, sweetheart, esp. in pastoral poetryâ?• *(OED).*

21 *Hark* â??To give ear or listen to; to hearken to, hear with active attentionâ?• *(OED).*

34 *Verdure* â??The fresh green colour characteristic of flourishing vegetation; greenness, viridityâ?• *(OED).*

47 *Zephirs* â??A soft mild gentle wind or breezeâ?• *(OED).*

49 *Meanders* â??To follow a winding courseâ?• *(OED).*

57 *Rapture* â??A state, condition, or fit of intense delight or enthusiasmâ?• *(OED).*

67 *Gales* â??A gentle breezeâ?• *(OED).*

69 *Inquietudes* â??The fact or condition of being inquieted or having oneâ??s quiet disturbed; disturbanceâ?• *(OED).*

77 *refulgent* â??Shining with, or reflecting, a brilliant light; radiant, resplendent; gleaming, lustrousâ?• *(OED).*

Source: ***Poems on Several Occasions. Written by a Young Lady (London, 1747), pp.1-6. [Google Books]***

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