Michael Bruce, â??Ode: To a Fountainâ?•

Description

MICHAEL BRUCE

â??Ode: To a Fountainâ?•

O Fountain of the wood! whose glassy wave
  Slow-welling from the rock of years,
    Holds to heavâ??n a mirrour blue,
      And bright as ANNAâ??S eye,

With whom Iâ??ve sported on the margin green:
  My hand with leaves, with lilies white,
    Gaily deckâ??d her golden hair,
      Young NAIAD of the vale.

Fount of my native wood! thy murmurs greet
  My ear, like poets heavâ??nly strain:
    Fancy pictures in a dream
      The golden days of youth.

O state of innocence! O paradise!
  In Hopeâ??s gay garden, Fancy views
    Golden blossoms, golden fruits,
      And EDEN ever green.

Where now, ye dear companions of my youth!
  Ye brothers of my bosom! where
    Do ye tread the walks of life,
      Wide scatterâ??d oâ??er the world?

Thus winged larks forsake their native nest,
  The merry minstrels of the morn;
    New to heavâ??n they mount away,
      And meet again no more.

All things decay; the forest like the leaf;
  Great kingdoms fall; the peopled globe,
    Planet-struck, shall pass away;
      Heavâ??ns with their hosts expire:

But Hopeâ??s fair visions, and the beams of Joy,
  Shall chear my bosom: I will sing

Natureâ??s beauty, Natureâ??s birth,
And heroes on the lyre.

Ye NAIADS! blue-eyed sisters of the wood!
Who by old oak, or storied stream,
Nightly tread your mystic maze,
And charm the wandâ??ring Moon,

Beheld by poetâ??s eye; inspire my dreams
With visions, like the landscapes fair
Of heavâ??nâ??s bliss, to dying faints
By guardian angels drawn.

Fount of the forest! in thy poetâ??s lays
Thy waves shall flow: this wreath of flowâ??rs,
Gatherâ??d by my ANNAâ??S hand,
I ask to bind my brow.

NOTES:

7 *Gaily* â??Airily; cheerfullyâ?• (*Johnson*).

8 *NAIAD* â??A nymph of fresh water, thought to inhabit a river, spring, etc.â?• (*OED*).

9 *Fount* â??Fountain, a well; a springâ?• (Johnson).

11 *Fancy* Poetic imagination.

21 *larks* â??A small singing birdâ?• (Johnson).

27 *Planet-struck* â??Blastedâ?• (Johnson).

32 *lyre* **â??**A harp; a musical instrument to which poetry is, by poetical writers, supposed to be sungâ?• (Johnson).

41 *poetâ??s lays* â??A lay may be a song, a melody, a simple narrative poem, or a balladâ?• (*Britannica*).

SOURCE: ***Poems on Several Occasions*** **(Edinburgh, 1770), pp. 45-47. [Google Books]**

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