

Aphra Behn, "The Dream. A Song"

Description

APHRA BEHN

•The Dream. A Song•

I.

The Grove was gloomy all around,  
Murm'ring the Streams did pass,  
Where fond *Astrea* laid her down  
Upon a Bed of Grass.

I slept and saw a piteous sight, ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ 5  
*Cupid* a weeping lay,  
Till both his little Stars of Light  
Had wept themselves away.

II.

Methought I ask'd him why he cry'd,  
My Pity led me on: ^ 10  
All sighing the sad Boy reply'd,  
Alas I am undone!

As I beneath yon Myrtles lay,  
Down by *Diana's* Springs,  
*Amyntas* stole my Bow away, ^ 15  
And Pinion'd both my Wings.

III.

Alas ! cry'd I, 'twas then thy Darts  
Wherewith he wounded me:  
Thou Mighty *Deity* of Hearts,  
He stole his Pow'r from thee. ^ 20

Revenge thee, if a God thou be,  
Upon the *Amorous Swain*;  
I'll set thy Wings at Liberty,  
And thou shalt fly again.

IV.

And for this Service on my Part,    ^ 25  
All I implore of thee,  
Is, That thouâ€™t wound *Amyntas* Heart,  
And make him die for me.

His Silken Fetters I Untyâ€™d,  
And the gay Wings displayâ€™d;    ^ 30  
Which gently fannâ€™d, he mounts and cryâ€™d,  
Farewelâ€™ fond easie Maid.

V.

At this I blushâ€™d, and angry grew  
I should a God believe;  
And waking found my Dream too true;    ^ 35  
Alas I was a Slave.

**NOTES:**

- 3 *Astrea* â€™ Goddess of justice and virtueâ€™ (*Dictionary of Classical Mythology*). ^ Also Behnâ€™s poetic name for herself.
- 6 *Cupid* â€™ God of loveâ€™ (*OED*).
- 13 *Myrtles* â€™ Various evergreen shrubs or small treesâ€™ (*OED*).
- 14 *Diana* â€™ Goddess of wild animals and the huntâ€™ (*Britannica*).
- 15 *Amyntas* Here a pastoral name for a swain.
- 16 *Pinion*â€™d â€™ Clipped wingsâ€™ (*OED*).
- 22 *Swain* â€™ Country loverâ€™ (*OED*).
- 29 *Fetters* Restraints (*OED*).

**SOURCE:** *Poems upon Several Occasions: With A Voyage to the Island of Love* (London 1684), pp. 78-80. [Google Books]

*Edited by Madina Tutakhil*