

# Robert Luck, "The Dry Joke"

## Description

ROBERT LUCK

### •œThe Dry Jokeœ•

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GodÂ *Bacchus* well warmâ€™d,  
With Beauty was charmâ€™d;  
And *Cupid*â€™s bright Mother address.  
She cryâ€™d, you are silly â€™”â€™”  
I hate you â€™” nor will I Â 5  
Be thus by a Toper carest.

Thus slighted the God,  
With an angry Nod,  
Said , Adieu to you, Madam â€™” in vain  
You’ll try to allure me: Â 10  
Your Pride shall secure me,  
From Courting coy Beauty again.

What *Bacchus* then spoke,  
She hopâ€™d was in joke:  
And again Wine and Love wouâ€™d agree. Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 15  
But he, as malicious  
As she was capricious,  
Her Error soon made her to see.

For Nymphs sweet as *May*,  
All met at a Play; Â 20  
Where each was as fine as a Queen.  
In each lovely Creature,  
Art yielded to Nature;  
Thoâ€™ deckâ€™d all in Jewels are seen.

*Apollo* was there, Â 25  
To charm eâ€™mery ear;  
But (what a mild Dove wouâ€™d provoke.)  
The Beaus who appearâ€™d on  
The Stage, slily learâ€™d on;  
And left the fair Circle to choke. Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 30

Now *Venus*

in vain,

Does to *Bacchus* complain,  
That Beauty was dying with thirst.

The God reply<sup>TM</sup>d, smiling,  
Her Coyness reviling “â€”” 35  
Why did you provoke me then first?

O ye Ladies, beware,  
Be as kind as you’re fair;  
Nor requite your fond Slaves with disdain.

A Lover defeated, 40  
With vengeance is hated;  
And Mischief still runs in his Brain.

**NOTES:**

1 *Bacchus* “â€œThe god of wineâ€œ(QED).

3 *Cupid* “â€œIn Roman Mythology, the god of love, son of Mercury and Venusâ€œ(QED).

6 *Toper* “â€œOne who topes or drinks a great deal; a drunkardâ€œ(QED).

25 *Apollo* Greek god of sun, light, music and poetry.

28 *Beaus* “â€œA man who gives particular, or excessive, attention to dress, mien, and social etiquette; a dandyâ€œ(QED).

31 *Venus* The ancient Roman goddess of beauty and love.

**SOURCE:** *A Miscellany of new Poems, on Several Occasions* (London, 1736), pp. 56-58. [Google Books]

*Edited by Ivan Li*