George Woodward, â??On the Death of a Monkeyâ?•

Description

GEORGE WOODWARD

â??On the Death of a Monkeyâ?•

Poor *Pug* is dead! the briskest Thing on Earth,
Harmless and kind, but wanton from his Birth:
Grave was his Look, and Politick his Mien,
Easy and Gay, a Stranger to the Spleen!
No State-Affairs disturbâ??d his downy Rest,
Nor Party-Zeal raisâ??d Tumults in his Breast:
Perhaps, he grievâ??d Himself to Death to see
So many *Brother-Apes* preferrâ??d, and He
Left here behind, in such a low Degree.

NOTES:

1 *Pug* â??A monkey, an apeâ?• (*OED*).

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

3 *Mien* â??The bearing, character, appearance, or instinct of an animalâ?• (*OED*).

4 *spleen* â??Excessive dejection or depression of spiritsâ?• (*OED*).

5 *downy Rest* Sleep.

6 *Party-Zeal* Partisan political passion; or strong feeling toward a particular political stance (*OED*); *Tumults* â??Great disturbance or agitation of mind or feelingâ?• (*OED*).

9 *Degree* â??A stage or position in the scale of dignity or rankâ?• (*OED*).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (Oxford, 1730), p. 130. [*Google Books*]

Edited by Estrellita Ruiz