

## Anne Finch, "Cupid and Folly"

### Description

ANNE FINCH

"Cupid and Folly"  
*Imitated from the FRENCH*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                 |    |
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| Cupid, ere depriv'd of Sight,<br>Young and apt for all Delight,<br>Met with <i>Folly</i> on the way,<br>As Idle, and as fond of Play.<br>In gay Sports the time they pass;                      | 5  |
| Now run, now wrestle on the Grass;<br>Their painted Wings then nimbly ply,<br>And ev'ry way for Mast'ry try:<br>Till a Contest do's arise,<br>Who has won th' appointed Prize.                  | 10 |
| Gentle <i>Love</i> refers the Case<br>To the next, that comes in Place;<br>Trusting to his flatt'ring Wiles,<br>And softens the Dispute with Smiles.<br>But <i>Folly</i> , who no Temper knows, | 15 |
| Words pursues with hotter Blows:<br>Till the Eyes of <i>Love</i> were lost,<br>Which has such Pain to Mortals cost.<br><i>Venus</i> hears his mournful Crys,<br>And repeats 'em, in the Skys,   | 20 |
| To <i>Jupiter</i> in Council set,<br>With Peers for the Occasion met;<br>In her Arms the Boy she bears,<br>Bathing him in falling Tears;<br>And whilst his want of Eyes is shown,               | 25 |
| Secures the Judges by her Own.<br><i>Folly</i> to the Board must come,<br>And hear the Tryal and the Doom;<br>Which <i>Cytherea</i> loudly prays<br>May be as heavy as the Case:                | 30 |
| Which, when All was justly weigh'd,<br><i>Cupid's</i> Wings now useless made,<br>That a Staff, his Feet must guide,<br>Which wou'd still be apt to slide;<br>This Decree at last was read,      | 35 |
| That <i>Love</i> by <i>Folly</i> shou'd be lead.                                                                                                                                                |    |

## NOTES:

**1** *Cupid* Roman god of love (Britannica), often rendered in iconography as blindfolded or blind.

**3** *Folly* Foolishness; 'unwise conduct' (OED).

**19** *Venus* Roman goddess of love, mother of Cupid (Britannica).

**21** *Jupiter* Roman god of the sky (Britannica).

**29** *Cytherea* Another name for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love.

**SOURCE:** *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1714), pp. 135-136. [HathiTrust]

*Edited by Hannah Heiden*