Anonynmous, â??On the Art of Writing: Sent to MIRAâ?•

Description

ANONYMOUS

â??*On the Art of Writing : Sent to* MIRAâ?•

Hail sacred art! by Gods above
Designâ??d the messenger of love,
In pity to thâ?? immortal mind,
In earthly prison close confinâ??d.
Without thee, what were *Mira*â??s grace? 5
Or beauteous *Helen*â??s fatal face?
Like sparks that glittâ??ring upward fly,
Scarce known to live before they dye.
Thalia too, celestial maid,
Implorâ??d by bards, implores thy aid. 10
If you refuse, how vain her song!
The numbers perish on her tongue.
Fly hence! on lightâ??ningâ??s wings away,
And to my lovely *Mira* say,
That *London*â??s wealth, and mirth, and pride, 15
With all things apt to charm beside,
Enamelâ??d lawns, and waving trees,
From *Mira* take their power to please.
For when my Fair is out of sight,
These are but shadows of delight. 20
Away! thou love-relieving art!
To dearest *Mira* bear my heart,
Bid her, in *Cupid*â??s name, return
That heart, for which I rave, I burn.
But shouâ??d she scorn the archerâ??s skill, 25
Great *Pallas*, guardian of her will,
Bid her dismiss her needless fears,
For lo! *Sincerity* appears.
Say, *Hymen* waits with ardent care,
To give the World a happy pair: 30
And *Cupid* too stands armed by,
To wound the first that dares to fly.
Thus Love and Reason shall combine,
And like twin-stars alternate shine;
Whatever Reason shall approve, 35

Shall seem thâ?? effects of yielding Love:
Whatever Love shall deign to name,
Applauding Reason shall proclaim.
Reason, like *Sol* to *Tellus* kind,
Ripens the products of the mind, 40
Dispells the anxious cares of life,
Those mists of sorrow and of strife:
And when old *Time* shall envious prove,
In this is Beauty, Youth, and Love.
But Love, if Reasonâ??s out of sight, 45
Is all opaque and void of light,
Like the dull *Moon*, which oft resigns
Those borrowâ??d beams by which she shines:
The pleasure then it brags of most,
Is but what brutes themselves can boast. 50
Once more, thou heavâ??n-born art, away!
My soulâ??s impatient of delay:
As quick as thought again return,
And bring that heart for which I burn.

NOTES:

6 *Helen* Helen of Troy or Helen of Sparta, mortal daughter of Zeus and Leda, recognized for her perfect beauty, which was also considered as it led her to be abducted by Theseus as a young girl. Helen wed with Menelaus of Sparta but eventually fled to Troy from his kingdom with Paris, effectively starting the Trojan war. Helen was returned to Sparta with Menelaus once Troy was captured and is now memorialized in Greek mythology for the conflict and death that her beauty caused (*Britannica*).

9 *Thalia* One of the nine Muses that acted as goddesses of the arts; Thalia was patron of comedy and pastoral poetry; frequently depicted with a comic mask and shepherdâ??s staff (*Britannica*).

23 *Cupid* â??In Roman Mythology, the god of love, son of Mercury and Venus, identified with the Greek Erosâ?• (*OED*).

26 *Pallas* Epithet for Athena, Greek goddess of wisdom and war.

29 *Hymen* Greek god of marriage.

39 *Sol* Roman god of the sun; *Tellus* â??Ancient Roman earth goddessâ?• (*Britannica*).

SOURCE: ***The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine*, vol. 8 (October 1738), p. 544. [HathiTrust]**

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