

Charlotte Lennox, “To Moneses Singing”

Description

[CHARLOTTE LENNOX]

“To *MONESSES* Singing”

Be hush'd as Death, *Moneses* sings,
Moneses strikes the sounding Strings;
Let sacred Silence dwell around,
And nought disturb the Magick Sound;
Let not the softly whisp'ring Breeze 5
Sob amidst the rustling Trees;
Murmur, ye plaintive Streams, no more,
But glide in Silence to the Shore:
Even *Philomel* thy Note suspend,
And to a sweeter Song attend; 10
Ah! soft, ah! dang'rous, pow'rful Charm,
An Angel's Voice, an Angel's Form;
Attentive to the heav'nly Lay,
I hear and gaze my Soul away;
Now tender Wishes, melting Fires, 15
Infant Pains, and young Desires,
Steal into my softned Soul,
And bend it to the sweet Controul;
Yet, let me fly, e'er 'tis too late,
The sweet Disease, and shun my Fate. 20
But ah! that softly, dying Strain
Arrests my Steps, I strive in vain.
Again I to the Syren turn,
Again with gentle Fires I burn;
Cease lovely Youth th' enchanting Sound, 25
Too deep already is the Wound;
Thro' all my Veins the Poison steals,
My Heart the dear Infection feels:
I faint, I die, by love opprest,
The Sigh scarce heaves my panting Breast; 30
Before my View dim Shadows rise,
And hides Thee from my ravish'd Eyes:
Thy Voice, like distant Sounds, I hear,
It dies in murmurs on my Ear:
In the too pow'rful Transport tost, 35

Ev'n Thought, and ev'ry Sense is lost.

NOTES:

Title *MONESSES* A made up pastoral name for an unidentified addressee.

7 plaintive "Mournful, sad" (*OED*).

9 *Philomel* "A poetic or literary name for the nightingale," known for its sweet song (*OED*).

23 *Syren* "One who, or that which, sings sweetly, charms, allures, or deceives like the Sirens" (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions. Written by a Young Lady* (London, 1747), pp. 23-25. [Google Books]

Edited by Tomas E. Raudales-Beleche