

## William Collins, "Ode to Peace"

### Description

#### WILLIAM COLLINS "Ode to Peace"

O Thou who badst thy turtles bear  
Swift from his grasp thy golden hair,  
    And sought'st thy native skies;  
When War, by vultures drawn from far,  
To Britain bent his iron car, 5  
    And bade his storms arise!

    Tir'd of his rude tyrannic sway,  
Our youth shall fix some festive day,  
    His sullen shrines to burn :  
But thou, who hear'st the turning spheres, 10  
What sounds may charm thy partial ears,  
    And gain thy blest return!

O Peace, thy injur'd robes up-bind!  
O rise! and leave not one behind  
    Of all thy beamy train: 15  
The British Lion, Goddess sweet,  
Lies stretch'd on earth to kiss thy feet,  
    And own thy holier reign.

Let others court thy transient smile;  
But come to grace thy western isle, 20  
    By warlike Honour led;  
And, while, around her ports rejoice,  
While all her sons adore thy choice,  
    With him for ever wed!

### NOTES:

1 *badst* "Commanded" (OED).

3 *sought'st* "To go in search or quest of" (OED).

4 *War* Reference to the second Jacobite rebellion (1745-1746), Charles Edward Stuart, the "Young Pretender,"  
• was finally defeated in the Battle of Culloden, in northern Scotland, on 16 April 1746 (*Britannica*).

6 *bade* "Bid" (OED).

**16** *The British Lion* — The lion as the national emblem of Great Britain; hence often used figuratively for the British nation (*OED*).

**19** *transient* — Temporary; fleeting• (*OED*).

**SOURCE:** *The Poetical Works of Mr. William Collins* (Glasgow, 1777), pp. 48-49 [Google Books]  
*Edited by Montel Mosuela*