Samuel Boyse, â??Wine the Cure of Love. A Balladâ?•

Description

[SAMUEL BOYSE]

â??Wine the Cure of Love. A Balladâ?•

As lovesick *Apollo* by *Daphne* disdainâ??d,
In *Tempe* sat whining beneath an old oak;
Bacchus happenâ??d to hear as he sadly complainâ??d,
And shaking with laughter, thus jestingly spoke.

â??What wounded by *Cupid*? now shame on thy skill,
To sit fretting thy Heart at the foot of a tree;
Can thâ?? *invincible God*, who a *Python* did kill,
Now whimper and sob for the *sting* of a *Bee*?

I protest, cozen *Phoebus*, thy fortune is hard.
That nor music, nor verse can diminish thy Grief;
Can no herb be discovered, no potion prepared,
To give the great *master* of s*cience* relief?

Come, take Heart, -and be counsellâ??d, -and lift up thy head!
I am the best Doctor when such fevers assail;
Quick, empty this goblet, no more need to be said:
I never once knew my catholicon fail!â?•

Phoebus toppâ??d off the Wine, â??twas old malmsey of *Crete*,
His Heart in an instant grew light as a feather!
â??Hang *Cupid* (says he) I believe heâ??s a cheat,
So here let us drink his confusion together.

A cheat! (*Bacchus* cried) heâ??s a son of a whore!
He has often endeavourâ??d to shew me his tricks;
But I bid him Defiance, â??a fig for his powâ??r,
I keep to the shield of my bottle, by *Styx*!

Were coz *Hermes* present you would laugh till you burst,
To hear how he rookâ??d him at Play of his darts;
What a noise *Venus* made, and the *little elf* cursâ??d,
For the *pitiful pins* which he sticks in *menâ??s hearts*.â?•

â??*Entre nous* (replyâ??d *Phoebus*) the boyâ??s spoilt with pride,
Sine *Jove* in all quarrels espouses his part:
Who frequently wants him to pimp on his side,

And that makes the *youngster* so saucy and smart.â?•

Thus they railâ??d at poor *Love*, â??as the bowl flew about
Till *Apollo* was perfectly curâ??d of his woe:
And *Bacchus* grown mellow, began to give out,
For night coming on gave each warning to go.

To *Delphos* gay *Phoebus* immediately flew,
And from his *old grotto* this oracle made,
â??*Good Wine* was the noblest *specific* he knew,
For the *pains* of the *heart*, or the *cares* of the *head*.*â?*•

NOTES:

1 *Apollo* An Olympian god of manly youth and beauty, poetry and music, and wisdom of the oracles (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 10); *Daphne* A nymph that was pursued by Apollo but escaped his advances by being transformed into a laurel tree by Zeus (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 32).

2 *Tempe* Celebrated by Greek poets as the favorite haunt of Apollo and the Muses in ancient times (â??Vale of Tempeâ?• *Wikipedia*).

3 *Bacchus* Roman equivalent of Dionysus, an Olympian god of grape and wine and patron of drama (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 37).

5 *Cupid* Latin equivalent of Eros, the god of love and son of Venus (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 45).

7 *invincible God, who a Python did kill* Python was a monstrous serpent that was slain by Apollo in the caves of Mount Parnassus (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 108).

8 *sting of a Bee* Venus compared Cupidâ??s arrows of love to the stings of bees when Cupid was stung by the insects while stealing honey from their hives (â??Cupidâ?• *Wikipedia*).

9 *cozen* â??Used in fond or familiar address, both to relatives and in the wider senseâ?• (*OED*); *Phoebus* Another name for Apollo (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 101).

12 *master of science* Apollo was also regarded as the god of knowledge (â??Apolloâ?• *Wikipedia*).

16 *catholicon* â??An electuary supposed to be capable of evacuating all humours; a universal remedy or prophylactic; panaceaâ?• (*OED*).

17 *malmsey* â??A strong sweet wine, originally the product of the district of Monemvasia (Napoli di Malvasia) in the Peloponnese, Greece, later also from other parts of the Mediterranean, the Azores, the Canaries, Madeira, and elsewhereâ?• (*OED*); *Crete* The largest and most populous of the Greek islands. The Paximadia islands were the birthplace of Artemis and Apollo (â??Creteâ?• *Wikipedia*).

23 *fig* â??A contemptuous gesture which consisted in thrusting the thumb between two of the closed fingers or into the mouthâ?• (*OED*).

24 *Styx* The principal river of the lower world, had to be crossed in passing to the regions of the dead (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 116).

25 *coz* â??An abbreviation of cousin (cozen)â?• (*OED*); *Hermes* An Olympian god of science and invention, eloquence, cunning, trickery, theft, luck and youth, herald and messenger of the gods (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 58).

26 *rookâ??d* â??To cheat or swindleâ?• (*OED*).

27 *Venus* Roman equivalent of Aphrodite, a Greek goddess of love and beauty (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 9).

29 *Entre nous* â??Between ourselves, in privateâ?• (*OED*).

30 *Jove* Roman equivalent of Zeus, a Greek god, the chief of the Olympian gods, god of the elements as rain, wind, thunder, and lightning (Andrew S. Glick, *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Gods, Goddesses, Demigods, and Other Subjects in Greek and Roman Mythology*, 131); *espouses* â??To associate or ally oneself withâ?• (*OED*).

33 *railâ??d* â??To complain persistently or vehemently aboutâ?• (*OED*).

37 *Delphos* The site of a major temple to Phoebus Apollo; the sanctuary of the oracle of Delphi, the Pythia (â??Delphiâ?• *Wikipedia*).

38 *grotto* â??A cave or cavern, esp. one which is picturesque, or which forms an agreeable retreatâ?• (*OED*).

39 *specific* â??Of remediesâ?¦specially or exclusively efficacious for, or acting upon, a particular ailment or part of the bodyâ?• (*OED*).

Source: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine* (July 1741), p. 383.

Edited by Cai En Chia