

Michael Bruce, "Ode: To a Fountain"

Description

MICHAEL BRUCE

"Ode: To a Fountain"

O Fountain of the wood! whose glassy wave Slow-welling from the rock of years, Holds to heav'n a mirrour blue, And bright as ANNA'S eye,	
With whom I've sported on the margin green: My hand with leaves, with lilies white, Gaily deck'd her golden hair, Young NAIAD of the vale.	5
Fount of my native wood! thy murmurs greet My ear, like poets heav'nly strain: Fancy pictures in a dream The golden days of youth.	10
O state of innocence! O paradise! In Hope's gay garden, Fancy views Golden blossoms, golden fruits, And EDEN ever green.	15
Where now, ye dear companions of my youth! Ye brothers of my bosom! where Do ye tread the walks of life, Wide scatter'd o'er the world?	20
Thus winged larks forsake their native nest, The merry minstrels of the morn; New to heav'n they mount away, And meet again no more.	
All things decay; the forest like the leaf; Great kingdoms fall; the peopled globe, Planet-struck, shall pass away; Heav'ns with their hosts expire:	25
But Hope's fair visions, and the beams of Joy, Shall cheer my bosom: I will sing	30

Nature's beauty, Nature's birth,
And heroes on the lyre.

Ye NAIADS! blue-eyed sisters of the wood!
Who by old oak, or storied stream,
Nightly tread your mystic maze, 35
And charm the wand'ring Moon,

Beheld by poet's eye; inspire my dreams
With visions, like the landscapes fair
Of heaven's bliss, to dying faints
By guardian angels drawn. 40

Fount of the forest! in thy poet's lays
Thy waves shall flow: this wreath of flow'rs,
Gather'd by my ANNA'S hand,
I ask to bind my brow.

NOTES:

7 *Gaily* – Airily; cheerfully (Johnson).

8 *NAIAD* – A nymph of fresh water, thought to inhabit a river, spring, etc. (OED).

9 *Fount* – Fountain, a well; a spring (Johnson).

11 *Fancy* Poetic imagination.

21 *larks* – A small singing bird (Johnson).

27 *Planet-struck* – Blasted (Johnson).

32 *lyre* – A harp; a musical instrument to which poetry is, by poetical writers, supposed to be sung (Johnson).

41 *poet's lays* – A lay may be a song, a melody, a simple narrative poem, or a ballad (Britannica).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (Edinburgh, 1770), pp. 45-47. [Google Books]

Edited by Yaneli Lopez