

Nv6 The day was turnd to starrelight, & was runne

Notes. This poem was clearly written on the assumption that the Spanish Match would be completed during Prince Charles and Buckingham's visit to the Spanish Court (February-October 1623), and may well have gained wider currency had this in fact occurred.

“On the Princes goeinge to Spayne”

The day was turnd to starrelight, & was runne
Where Neptune¹ sate at supper with the sunne.
Queene Thetis² askd him of the newes that day,
And busines of the world. Should I bewray
Said hee (and smild) fayre Lady what I spy 5
I oft might use a nett. Venus³ satt by
And blushing thought of Mars.⁴ with that one knockt
Aloud at Neptunes gate which shakd & rockd
His castle made with shells. Nereus⁵ brought word
Clad in a sea calves mantle to his Lord. 10
Without there stood a legate come from Spayne
To crave safe conduct ore his marble playne
Tis true said Sol,⁶ for I at noone before,
Observd the navy ready at the shore:
And as I past Parnassus hill,⁷ amonge 15
The nine,⁸ sate Hymen⁹ with a marriage songe.
For whom I askd and sent him there my Lute,
And Mercury¹⁰ lett Euterpe¹¹ have his flute.
Then Neptune seald his graunt to him, & swore
Himselfe would bring her to the brittish shore.¹² 20
The Sunn that best can judge of beauty, said
Shee was a second to his lawrell mayd.¹³
Hee praisd her birth & royall parentage,
How faire, how lovely, wise above her age.

And at her birth, said Venus, Jove¹⁴ and I 25
Ore Mars and Saturne¹⁵ had the victory.¹⁶
Neptune extolls the princely match: sure hee
That springes from these must bee some deity
Then Sol recountinge said that hee would bee
Ascendent Lord at her nativity. 30
The Moone was sportinge with the starres above
Whilst Sol & Neptune thus discoursd with Jove.
The night and banquet was farre spent in talke
And Phœbus¹⁷ said t'was time for him to walke
Then came Auror'¹⁸ & blushing told the clocke 35
Shee was ore clad in scarlett & a Cocke
Stood by her side as herald of the day,
Chasinge the starres unto their watry bay.
Then Phœbus halfe out of the sea was seene
And tooke his leave of Neptune & the Queene. 40
Nights twinc'linge eyes 'gan blind, while his bright torch
Shin'd to the world from out the Indian porch.
Neptune then calld to Triton¹⁹ for his coach
And bid him sound his trumpett, and to broach
His comminge towards Spayne; His robe was blew 45
Spun by a Syren²⁰ richly to the view.
Trimmd all with gemms, which Thetis fore had choosd
Out of the Indy shore, where oft shee usd
To play amonge the Nymphs: sixe broad find payre
Of yoked dolphins drew his watry chaire. 50
Such was his pompe: and as hee rode alonge
The fish him homage did: the scaly thronge
Swam by his chariott, like an harnest hoast
Till shee arrivd uppon the Lysbon coast.²¹
Hymen was there in consort with the nine 55

Both Jove & Bacchus²² there did come to dine
 Hymen hee bare the base & lowd did gape,
 The golden starre, & fayre Io's rape.²³
 Neptune then left his coach in Proteus²⁴ hand
 And for to grace the princesse came on land. 60
 The sea Nymphs meete her, & about her skipp
 Whilst all the nobles lead her to the shipp.
 Noe Nymph soe fayre as this! both Doris gazd
 And Nois²⁵ at her beauty stood amazd.
 The flatnose Satyres²⁶ from the wood that spyed 65
 Her lipps of Currall²⁷ fell in love & dyed.
 Her shipp was chard with thunder: and each sayle
 Wrought full of storyes, flourisht with a gale
 Of wind, which Jove bespake, who chasd from heaven
 The weeping clusters of the Sisters seaven.²⁸ 70
 The Kidds darest not bee seene, the windy starrs
 Now durst not breath! Arcturus²⁹ oft at warres
 With marriners was still. The twins³⁰ had charge
 (Oh happy couple) to attend their barge.
 The'Hesperian³¹ Lords then tooke their leaves, & shee 75
 At Spayne still lookinge wondred much to see
 The shores to fly away: then oft shee thinks
 Of golden Tagus,³² and his yellow brinks.
 There was she wont to bath; there stood a grove
 Where oft her with Diana³³ shee usd to rome. 80
 Thus thinkinge wept, & Hymen wip't her eyes,
 O save those pearlee dropps (quoth hee) and prize
 Each teare before a gemme. Then straight hee tooke
 Apolloes lute: and each Muse sange by booke.
 And charm'd all care. Hymen did nere soe move 85
 His learned quill, since Juno³⁴ marryed Jove.

The sea nymphs had theyr Consorts & for bells
 About theyr Timbrells³⁵ range a peale of shells.
 Each had her fish shee road on: some bestride
 The brideled Conger, some on Sturgeons ride. 90
 Triton hee spurrd a dolphin richly trapt
 And had about his wreathed trumpett wrapt
 A scarfe wherein both Jason³⁶ and his shippes
 Yet liv'd in needle worke. Then to his lippes
 Hee putt his shell, and made the Ocean roare 95
 And blew the fame unto the Brittish shore.
 Proteus rode on a Crab, whose oares were clawes
 Moving in order kept the shippemens lawes.
 The Lady saw him turnd into a Stag
 Now like a dragon, then anon a Nagg. 100
 Foorthwith a Bull, and quicly with a wish,
 A princely sturgeon, or a lesser fish.
 Neptune did turne his coach wher hee was sate
 And askd how hee did like the Sea: with that
 Hee reach'd, and kissd her twice, & road along 105
 Praying the art of Navigation.

Not far of stood a fleet of Pyratts, who
 Sayld to this prize, as swift as shaft from bowe:
 Then Neptune calld two monsters from the deepe
 Two bellowing whales which were beneath a sleepe, 110
 As low as hell; and bids them straight deliver
 Those slaves to Charon at the Stygian river.³⁷
 And thus in pompe th' arriv'd in Brittaines land
 Where Prince and Nobles stood upon the sand.
 The King³⁸ thankd Neptune for his princely Care 115
 Who answerd hee nere had a pledge soe rare
 Committed to his slippery trust. The Nymphes

Then tooke their leaves, & still desyrde a glympes
 Of her fayre eyes, and gave her guifts each one,
 This gave a shell, and shee a ruby stone. 120
 One gave a combe, another gave a ring,
 And Neptune gave his Charriott to the king.
 Take heere sayd hee the Ocean crowne & bee
 Next under mee the monarch of the sea.
 Then came the land nymphs with a rurall ditty 125
 And singing brought him to the royall cittie
 The auncient river³⁹ with his frizled heyre
 Striving with Christall from his Amber chayr
 Where hee with Isis⁴⁰ sate, rose when hee heard
 The Princesse was at hand & brushd his beard 130
 Which age had spun to silver, and putt on
 His azure mantle, stiffe with pearle and stone.
 Soe was my country Tagus clad said shee
 When at his banks hee tooke his leave of mee.
 With that the reverend Genius of the towne,⁴¹ 135
 Came forth to meet her in his purple gowne.
 Hee gave her jewells in a cupp of gold
 Whereon were graven storyes done of old
 And in his hand hee had a booke which shew'd
 The birth starres of the citty which Brutus⁴² plowed 140
 The furrowes of the wall: on every page
 A Kinge was drawne, his Fortune, & his age.
 But shee likes best & lov'd to see againe
 The british Prince⁴³ that should now match with Spayne
 Thus entred shee the court where every one 145
 To entertayne her made provision.
 Nois had angled all the night & tooke
 The troute, & gudgeon with her silver hooke.

The graces⁴⁴ all were busy on the downes
 Gatheringe of salletts & in wreathing crownes. 150
 The wood Nymphs ranne about & while twas darke
 With light & lowbell⁴⁵ caught the amazed larke
 One with some hayre pluckt from a Centaurs tayle
 Made springes to catch the woodcocke in the dale.
 One sprede the nett the cony to ensnare 155
 Another with the hounds pursued the hare.
 Diana early with her beugle cleere
 Armd with her quiver shott the fallow deere.
 The stately stagge hott with the fatall shaft
 Shedd teares in fallinge whiles the hunter laughd. 160
 All sent their games to Hymen with a præsent
 The buck, the partridge, and the painted pheasant.
 And Jove to grace his feast of Hymens joy
 Sent thither Nectar by the Trojan boy.⁴⁶
 The graces & the Dryades⁴⁷ were there 165
 The Queene of Fayries with her golden hayre
 The mountaines, Nymphs, Diana, & the nine
 Invited there by Hymen all did dine.
 Pan⁴⁸ stood & whilst, Vulcan⁴⁹ turnd the spitt,
 And Pallas⁵⁰ at the table shewd her witt 170
 The Cumane Sybill and the Tyburtine⁵¹
 Like two old statues did by course divine.
 One seemd old Saturnes Mothers midwife & the other
 Soe cramp'd with age, old Dæmogorgons⁵² Mother.
 The night gan now both feast & mirth surprise, 175
 And th'azure turnd to sable in the skyes.
 The royall couple then great Hymen ledd,
 With noise of musicke to the marriage bedd.
 Hee drew the curtaynes biddinge them good night

The Glosse.

This Poeme is noe Sybill or a Prophett
In future mysteryes of state & though it
May seeme of thinges not acted to divine
Yett thinke it means Princes Arthurs Katherine.⁵³

Source. Folger MS V.a.162, fols. 46r-48v

Other known sources. Bodleian MS Ashmole 47, fol. 25r; Bodleian MS CCC. 309, fol. 80r; Bodleian MS CCC. 328, fol. 70v; Bodleian MS Malone 19, p. 21; BL Add. MS 47111, fol. 18r; BL MS Egerton 923, fol. 40v; BL MS Sloane 542, fol. 21r; Brotherton MS Lt. q. 11, no. 41; Rosenbach MS 239/27, p. 1

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- ¹ *Neptune*: god of the sea.
- ² *Thetis*: a sea goddess.
- ³ *Venus*: goddess of love.
- ⁴ *Mars*: god of war, and Venus's lover.
- ⁵ *Nereus*: a sea divinity, often identified with the Aegean.
- ⁶ *Sol*: the sun god, Apollo.
- ⁷ *Parnassus hill*: Mount Parnassus, sacred to the Muses.
- ⁸ *The nine*: the nine Muses.
- ⁹ *Hymen*: god of marriage.
- ¹⁰ *Mercury*: the messenger god.
- ¹¹ *Euterpe*: Muse of lyric poetry.
- ¹² *bring her to the brittish shore*: i.e. bring the Infanta Maria to England.

- 13 *lawrell mayd*: Daphne, a nymph transformed into a laurel tree to enable her to avoid Apollo's lascivious pursuit.
- 14 *Jove*: king of the gods.
- 15 *Saturne*: the most ancient of the gods, and father of Jove.
- 16 *And at her birth...victory*: this couplet is best read in loosely astrological terms; the Infanta's birth was under the signs of Love and Happiness, rather than Strife and Sadness.
- 17 *Phæbus*: the sun god, driver of the chariot of the sun.
- 18 *Auror'*: Aurora, goddess of the dawn.
- 19 *Triton*: mythic sea creature, whose trumpet controlled the waves for Neptune.
- 20 *Syren*: siren, or sea nymph.
- 21 *Lysbon coast*: the western coast of Spain—Portugal was at that time under Spanish rule.
- 22 *Bacchus*: god of wine.
- 23 *The golden starre...Io's rape*: Io was transformed into a white heifer (probably by the queen of heaven, Hera/Juno) to thwart the desires of Jove. According to some versions of the myth, Jove then transformed himself into a bull in order to have sex with her.
- 24 *Proteus*: a sea god, able to assume many shapes.
- 25 *Doris...Nois*: sea nymphs.
- 26 *Satyres*: satyrs; forest divinities.
- 27 *Currall*: coral.
- 28 *Sisters seaven*: the Pleiades, the seven daughters of Atlas and Pleione, all but one of whom had affairs with the gods.
- 29 *Arcturus*: one of the brightest stars, especially prominent in the northern spring skies.
- 30 *The twins*: the constellation Gemini.
- 31 *Hesperian*: Western; here Spanish.

- 32 *Tagus*: the River Tagus in Spain.
- 33 *Diana*: maiden goddess of the hunt.
- 34 *Juno*: queen of the gods.
- 35 *Timbrells*: tambourine-like percussion instruments.
- 36 *Jason*: legendary leader of the Argonauts, and winner of the golden fleece.
- 37 *Charon at the Stygian river*: Charon ferried the souls of the dead across the River Styx to Hades.
- 38 *The King*: James I.
- 39 *ancient river*: personification of the River Thames.
- 40 *Isis*: the River Isis
- 41 *Genius of the towne*: mythic personification of London.
- 42 *Brutus*: mythic Trojan founder of London (“Troynovant”).
- 43 *british Prince*: Prince Charles.
- 44 *The graces*: goddesses (usually three in number) often associated with Venus.
- 45 *lowbell*: a bell used for hunting birds at night.
- 46 *Trojan boy*: Ganymede, Jove’s cupbearer.
- 47 *Dryades*: driads; wood divinities.
- 48 *Pan*: god of shepherds.
- 49 *Vulcan*: the metalworking god.
- 50 *Pallas*: Athena, goddess of wisdom.
- 51 *Cumane Sybill...Tyburtine*: the Cumaean and Tiburtine Sibyls, aged prophetesses.
- 52 *Dæmogorgons*: infernal deity, glossed as hellish demon in Christian tradition.
- 53 *This Poeme...Katherine*: the “Glosse” appended to this poem disingenuously denies contemporary

applicability, claiming the poem refers only to the 1499 marriage of Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII, to the Spanish Princess Catherine of Aragon.

