



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

No 120. Saturday, January 14. 1709.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53633](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53633)

The latter part of his discourse flung me into such an astonishment, that he had been silent for some time before I took notice of it; when on a sudden I started up and drew my curtains, to look if any one was near me, but saw no-body, and cannot tell to this moment, whether it was my good Genius or a Dream that left me.

N^o 120. Saturday, January 14. 1709.

---- *Velut silvis, ubi passim*

Palantes error certo de tramite pellit;

Ille sinistrorsum, hic dextorsum abit.

Hor.

Sheer-Lane, January 13.

INstead of considering any particular Passion or Character in any one Set of men, my thoughts were last night employed on the contemplation of humane life in general; and truly it appears to me, that the whole Species are hurried on by the same desires, and engaged in the same pursuits, according to the different stages and divisions of Life. Youth is devoted to Lust, Middle-age to Ambition, Old age to Avarice. These are the three general motives and principles of action both in good and bad men; though it must be acknowledged, that they change their names, and refine their natures, according to the temper of the person whom they direct and animate. For with the Good, Lust becomes Virtuous Love; Ambition, true Honour; and Avarice, the Care of posterity. This scheme of thought amused me very agreeably till I retired to rest, and afterwards formed it self into a pleasing and regular Vision, which I shall describe in all its circumstances, as the objects presented themselves, whether in a serious or ridiculous manner.

I dreamed that I was in a Wood, of so prodigious an extent, and cut into such a variety of walks and allies, that all Mankind were lost and bewildered in it. After having wandered up and down some time, I came into the Centre of it, which opened into a wide Plain, filled with

multitudes of both Sexes. I here discovered Three great Roads, very wide and long, that led into three different parts of the Forest. On a sudden, the whole multitude broke into three parts, according to their different ages, and marched in their respective bodies into the Three great Roads that lay before them. As I had a mind to know how each of these Roads terminated, and whither it would lead those who passed through them, I joined my self with the assembly that were in the flower and vigour of their age, and called themselves *The Band of Lovers*. I found, to my great surprize, that several Old men besides my self had intruded into this agreeable company; as I had before observed, there were some young men who had united themselves to the Band of Misers, and were walking up the Path of *Avarice*; though both made a very ridiculous figure, and were as much laughed at by those they joined, as by those they forsook. The Walk which we marched up, for thicknes of shades, embroidery of flowers, and melody of birds, with the distant purling of streams, and falls of water, was so wonderfully delightful, that it charmed our Senses, and intoxicated our Minds with pleasure. We had not been long here, before every Man singled out some Woman to whom he offered his Addresse, and professed himself a Lover; when on a sudden we perceived this delicious Walk to grow more narrow as we advanced in it, till it ended in many intricate thickets, mazes and labyrinths, that were so mixed with roses and brambles, brakes of thorns, and beds of flowers, rocky paths, and pleasing grotto's, that it was hard to say, whether it gave greater delight or perplexity to those who travelled in it.

It was here that the Lovers began to be eager in their pursuits. Some of their Mistresses, who only seemed to retire for the sake of form and decency, led them into Plantations that were disposed into regular walks; where, after they had wheeled about in some turns and windings, they suffered themselves to be overtaken, and gave their hands to those who pursued them. Others withdrew from their followers into little Wilderesses, where there were so many paths interwoven with each other in so much confusion and irregularity, that several of the Lovers quitted the pursuit, or broke their hearts in the chace. It was sometimes very odd to see a Man pursuing a fine Woman that was following another, whose eye was fixed upon a fourth, that had her own game in view in some other quarter of the Wilderess. I could not but observe two things in this place which I thought very particular, That several persons who stood only at the End of the Avenues, and cast a care-
less

less eye upon the Nymphs during their whole flight, often caught them, when those who pressed them the most warmly through all their turns and doubles, were wholly unsuccessful: And that some of my own Age, who were at first looked upon with aversion and contempt, by being well acquainted with the Wilderness, and by dodging their Women in the particular corners and allies of it, caught them in their arms, and took them from those whom they really loved and admired. There was a particular Grove, which was called *The Labyrinth of Coquettes*; where many were enticed to the chace, but few returned with purchase. It was pleasant enough to see a celebrated Beauty, by smiling upon one, casting a glance upon another, beckoning to a third, and adapting her Charms and Graces to the several Follies of those that admired her, drawing into the Labyrinth a whole pack of Lovers, that lost themselves in the Maze, and never could find their way out of it. However, it was some satisfaction to me, to see many of the Fair ones, who had thus deluded their Followers, and left them among the Intricacies of the Labyrinth, obliged when they came out of it, to surrender to the first Partner that offered himself. I now had crossed over all the difficult and perplexed Passages that seemed to bound our walk, when on the other side of them, I saw the same great Road running on a little way, till it was terminated by two beautiful Temples. I stood here for some time, and saw most of the Multitude who had been dispersed amongst the Thickets, coming out two by two, and marching up in pairs towards the Temples that stood before us. The Structure on the right hand was (as I afterwards found) consecrated to *Virtuous Love*, and could not be entered but by such as received a Ring, or some other token, from a Person who was placed as a guard at the gate of it. He wore a Garland of Roses and Mirtles on his head, and on his shoulders a Robe like an Imperial Mantle, white and unspotted all over, excepting only, that where it was clasped at his breast, there were two golden Turtle Doves that buttoned it by their bills, which were wrought in rubies. He was called by the name of *Hymen*, and was seated near the Temple, in a delicious Bower, made up of several trees, that were embraced by Woodbines, Jessamines, and Amaranths, which were as so many emblems of Marriage, and ornaments to the trunks that supported them. As I was single and unaccompanied, I was not permitted to enter the Temple, and for that reason am a stranger to all the Mysteries that were performed in it. I had however the curiosity to observe how the several couples that entered were disposed of; which was after the following manner.

L 12

There

There were two great gates on the backside of the edifice, at which the whole crowd was let out. At one of these gates were two Women, extremely beautiful, though in a different kind, the one having a very careful and composed air, the other a sort of smile and ineffable sweetness in her countenance. The name of the first was *Discretion*, and of the other *Complacency*. All who came out of this gate, and put themselves under the direction of these two Sisters, were immediately conducted by them into Gardens, Groves, and Meadows, which abounded in delights, and were furnished with every thing that could make them the proper seats of happiness. The second gate of this Temple let out all the couples that were unhappily married, who came out linked together by Chains, which each of them strove to break, but could not. Several of these were such as had never been acquainted with each other before they met in the great Walk, or had been too well acquainted in the Thicket. The entrance of this gate was possessed by three Sisters, who joined themselves with these wretches, and occasioned most of their miseries. The youngest of the Sisters was known by the name of *Levity*, who with the innocence of a Virgin, had the dress and behaviour of a Harlot. The name of the second was *Contention*, who bore on her right arm a Muff made of the skin of a Porcupine; and on her left carried a little Lap-dog, that barked and snapped at every one that passed by her.

The eldest of the Sisters, who seemed to have an haughty and imperious Air, was always accompanied with a Tawny *Cupid*, who generally marched before her with a little Mace on his shoulder, the end of which was fashioned into the horns of a Stag. Her Garments were yellow, and her Complexion pale. Her Eyes were piercing, but had odd casts in them, and that particular distemper, which makes persons who are troubled with it, see objects double. Upon enquiry, I was informed that her name was *Jealousie*.

Having finished my observations upon this Temple, and its Votaries, I repaired to that which stood on the left hand, and was called *The Temple of Lust*. The front of it was raised on *Corinthian* pillars, with all the meretricious ornaments that accompany that Order; whereas that of the other was composed of the chaste and matron-like *Ionic*. The sides of it were adorned with several grotesque figures of Goats, Sparrows, Heathen Gods, Satyrs, and Monsters made up of half Man half Beast. The gates were unguarded, and open to all that had a mind to enter. Upon my going in, I found the windows were blinded, and let
in

in only a kind of twilight, that served to discover a prodigious number of dark corners and apartments, into which the whole Temple was divided. I was here stunn'd with a mixed noise of clamour and jollity: On one side of me, I heard singing and dancing; on the other, brawls and clashing of swords. In short, I was so little pleas'd with the place, that I was going out of it; but found I could not return by the gate where I entered, which was barred against all that were come in, with Bolts of Iron, and Locks of Adamant. There was no going back from this Temple through the Paths of Pleasure which led to it: All who pass'd through the ceremonies of the place, went out at an Iron Wicket, which was kept by a dreadful Giant call'd *Remorse*, that held a scourge of Scorpions in his hand, and drove them into the only outlet from that Temple. This was a passage, so rugged, so uneven, and choaked with so many Thorns and Briars, that it was a melancholy spectacle to behold the pains and difficulties which both Sexes suffer'd who walk'd through it. The Men, though in the prime of their youth, appear'd weak and in-feebl'd with old age: The Women wrung their hands, and tore their hair; and several lost their Limbs before they could extricate themselves out of the perplexities of the Path in which they were engag'd. The remaining part of this Vision, and the adventures I met with in the two great roads of *Ambition* and *Avarice*, must be the subject of another paper.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

*I have this Morning received the following Letter from the famous
Mr. Thomas Dogget.*

S I R,

ON Monday next will be acted for my benefit, the Comedy of Love for Love: If you will do me the honour to appear there, I will publish on the Bills, That it is to be performed at the request of Isaac Bickerstaffe, Esq; and question not but it will bring me as great an Audience, as ever was at the House since the Morocco Ambassador was there.

I am,

(With the greatest Respect)

Your most Obedient, and most Humble Servant,

Thomas Dogget.

Being

Being naturally an encourager of Wit, as well as bound to it in the quality of Censor, I returned the following answer.

Mr. Dogget,

I AM very well pleased with the choice you have made of so excellent a Play, and have always looked upon you as the best of Comedians; I shall therefore come in between the first and second Act, and remain in the right-hand Box over the Pit till the end of the fourth, provided you take care that every thing be rightly prepared for my reception.

N^o 121. Tuesday, January 17. 1709.

-----*Similis tibi, Cynthia, vel tibi cujus
Turbavit nitidos extinctus passer ocellos.*

Juv.

From my own Apartment, January 16.

I Was recollecting the remainder of my Vision, when my Maid came to me, and told me, there was a Gentlewoman below who seemed to be in great trouble, and pressed very much to see me. When it lay in my power to remove the distress of an unhappy person, I thought I should very ill employ my time in attending matters of speculation, and therefore desired the Lady would walk in. When she entered, I saw her eyes full of tears: However, her grief was not so great as to make her omit rules; for she was very long and exact in her Civilities, which gave me time to view and consider her. Her Clothes were very rich, but tarnished; and her Words very fine, but ill applied. These distinctions made me without hesitation (though I had never seen her before) ask her, If her Lady had any commands for me? She then began to weep afresh, and with many broken sighs told me, That their Family was in very great Affliction—I beseeched her to compose her self, for that I might possibly be capable of assisting them—She then cast her eye