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**The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.**

In Four Volumes

**Addison, Joseph**

**London, 1721**

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N<sup>o</sup> 233. Tuesday, November 27.

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-----*Tanquam hæc sint nostri medicina furoris,  
Aut Deus ille malis hominum mitescere discat.*

Virg.

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I Shall, in this paper, discharge my self of the promise I have made to the public, by obliging them with a translation of the little *Greek* manuscript, which is said to have been a piece of those records that is preserved in the temple of *Apollo* upon the promontory of *Leucate*: It is a short history of the lover's leap, and is inscribed, *An account of persons male and female, who offered up their vows in the temple of the Pythian Apollo, in the forty sixth Olympiad, and leaped from the promontory of Leucate, into the Ionian sea, in order to cure themselves of the passion of love.*

This account is very dry in many parts, as only mentioning the name of the lover who leaped, the person he leaped for, and relating in short, that he was either cured, or killed, or maimed, by the fall. It indeed gives the names of so many who died by it, that it would have looked like a bill of mortality, had I translated it at full length; I have therefore made an abridgment of it, and only extracted such particular passages as have something extraordinary, either in the case, or in the cure, or in the fate of the person who is mentioned in it. After this short preface, take the account as follows.

*Battus*, the son of *Menalcas*, the *Sicilian*, leaped for *Bombyca* the musician: got rid of his passion with the loss of his right leg and arm, which were broken in the fall.

*Melissa*, in love with *Daphnis*, very much bruised, but escaped with life.

*Cynisca*, the wife of *Æschines*, being in love with *Lycus*; and *Æschines* her husband being in love with *Eurilla*; (which had made this married couple very uneasy to one another for several years) both the husband and the wife took the leap by consent; they both of them escaped, and have lived very happily together ever since.

*Larissa,*

*Larissa*, a virgin of *Thessaly*, deserted by *Plexippus*, after a courtship of three years; she stood upon the brow of the promontory for some time, and having thrown down a ring, a bracelet, and a little picture, with other presents which she had received from *Plexippus*, she threw herself into the sea, and was taken up alive.

*N. B.* *Larissa*, before she leap'd, made an offering of a silver *Cupid* in the temple of *Apollo*.

*Simetha*, in love with *Daphnis* the *Myndian*, perished in the fall.

*Charixus*, the brother of *Sappho*, in love with *Rhodope* the Courtesan, having spent his whole estate upon her, was advised by his sister to leap in the beginning of his amour, but would not hearken to her till he was reduced to his last talent; being forsaken by *Rhodope*, at length resolved to take the leap. Perished in it.

*Aridæus*, a beautiful youth of *Epirus*, in love with *Praxinoe*, the wife of *Thespiis*, escaped without damage, saving only that two of his fore-teeth were struck out, and his nose a little flattened.

*Cleora*, a widow of *Ephesus*, being inconsolable for the death of her husband, was resolved to take this leap, in order to get rid of her passion for his memory; but being arrived at the Promontory, she there met with *Dimmachus* the *Miletian*, and after a short conversation with him, laid aside the thoughts of her leap, and married him in the temple of *Apollo*.

*N. B.* Her widow's weeds are still to be seen hanging up in the western corner of the temple.

*Olphis*, the fisherman, having received a box on the ear from *Thestylis* the day before, and being determined to have no more to do with her, leaped, and escaped with life.

*Atalanta*, an old maid, whose cruelty had several years before driven two or three despairing lovers to this leap; being now in the fifty fifth year of her age, and in love with an officer of *Sparta*, broke her neck in the fall.

*Hipparchus* being passionately fond of his own wife, who was enamoured of *Bathyllus*, leaped and died of his fall; upon which his wife married her gallant.

*Tettyx*, the Dancing-master, in love with *Olympia* an *Athenian* matron, threw himself from the rock with great agility, but was crippled in the fall.

*Diagoras*, the usurer, in love with his cook-maid; he peeped several times over the precipice, but his heart misgiving him, he went back, and married her that evening. *Cina-*

*Cinædus*, after having entred his own name in the *Pythian* records, being asked the name of the person whom he leaped for, and being ashamed to discover it, he was set aside, and not suffered to leap.

*Eunica*, a maid of *Paphos* aged nineteen, in love with *Eurybates*. Hurt in the fall, but recovered.

*N. B.* This was her second time of leaping.

*Hesperus*, a young man of *Tarentum*, in love with his Master's daughter. Drowned, the boats not coming in soon enough to his relief.

*Sappho* the *Lesbian*, in love with *Phaon*, arrived at the temple of *Apollo*, habited like a bride in garments as white as snow. She wore a garland of myrtle on her head, and carried in her hand the little musical instrument of her own invention. After having sung an hymn to *Apollo*, she hung up her garland on one side of his Altar, and her harp on the other. She then tuck'd up her vestments like a *Spartan* Virgin, and amidst thousands of spectators, who were anxious for her safety, and offered up vows for her deliverance, marched directly forwards to the utmost summit of the Promontory, where after having repeated a stanza of her own verses, which we could not hear, she threw her self off the rock with such an intrepidity, as was never before observed in any who had attempted that dangerous leap. Many, who were present, related, that they saw her fall into the sea, from whence she never rose again; though there were others who affirmed, that she never came to the bottom of her leap; but that she was changed into a Swan as she fell, and that they saw her hovering in the air under that shape. But whether or no the whiteness and fluttering of her garments might not deceive those who looked upon her, or whether she might not really be metamorphosed into that musical and melancholy bird, is still a doubt among the *Lesbians*.

*Alcaeus*, the famous *Lyrick* Poet, who had for some time been passionately in love with *Sappho*, arrived at the Promontory of *Leucate* that very evening, in order to take the leap upon her account; but hearing that *Sappho* had been there before him, and that her body could be no where found, he very generously lamented her fall, and is said to have written his hundred and twenty fifth Ode upon that occasion.

*Leaped in this Olympiad 250.*

Males 124

Females 126

Cured 120

Males 51

Females 69

Thurs