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### **The Works Of Alexander Pope Esq.**

In Nine Volumes Complete. With His Last Corrections, Additions, And Improvements; As they were delivered to the Editor a little before his Death

Containing His Translations And Imitations

**Pope, Alexander**

**London, 1751**

Vertumnus and Pomona, from Ovid's Metamorphoses

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VERTUMNUS

A N D

P O M O N A :

From the FOURTEENTH Book of

OVID'S METAMORPHOSES.

# VERTUMNUS

E T

# POMONA.

**R**EGE sub hoc Pomona fuit : qua nulla La-  
tinas

Inter Hamadryadas coluit solertius hortos,  
Nec fuit arborei studiosior altera foetus :  
Unde tenet nomen. non sylvas illa, nec amnes ; 5  
Rus amat, et ramos felicia poma ferentes.  
Nec jaculo gravis est, sed adunca dextera falce : 10  
Qua modo luxuriam premit, et spatiantia passim  
Brachia compefcit ; fiffa modo cortice virgam  
Inferit ; et succos alieno praestat alumno.

## VERTUMNUS

A N D

## P O M O N A .

**T**HE fair Pomona flourish'd in his reign;  
 Of all the Virgins of the sylvan train,  
 None taught the trees a nobler race to bear,  
 Or more improv'd the vegetable care.  
 To her the shady grove, the flow'ry field,      5  
 The streams and fountains, no delights could yield;  
 'Twas all her joy the ripening fruits to tend,  
 And see the boughs with happy burthens bend.  
 The hook she bore instead of Cynthia's spear,  
 To lop the growth of the luxuriant year,      10  
 To decent form the lawless shoots to bring,  
 And teach th' obedient branches where to spring.  
 Now the cleft rind inserted graffs receives,  
 And yields an offspring more than nature gives;

Nec patitur sentire sitim : bibulaeque recurvas 15  
Radicis fibras labentibus irrigat undis.

Hic amor, hoc studium : Veneris quoque nulla cu-  
pido.

Vim tamen agrestium metuens, pomaria claudit  
Intus, et accessus prohibet refugitque viriles. 20

Quid non et Satyri, saltatibus apta juvenus,  
Fecere, et pinu praecincti cornua Panes,  
Sylvanusque suis semper juvenilior annis,  
Quique Deus fures, vel falce, vel inguine terret,  
Ut poterentur ea? sed enim superabat amando 25

Hos quoque Vertumnus : neque erat felicior illis.

O quoties habitu duri messoris aristas

Corbe tulit, verique fuit messoris imago!

Tempora saepe gerens foeno religata recenti,

Defectum poterat gramen versasse videri. 30

Saepe manu stimulos rigida portabat ; ut illum

Jurares fessos modo disjunxisse juvencos.

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 241

Now sliding streams the thirsty plants renew, 15  
And feed their fibres with reviving dew.

These cares alone her virgin breast employ,  
Averse from Venus and the nuptial joy.

Her private orchards, wall'd on ev'ry side,  
To lawless sylvans all access deny'd. 20

How oft the Satyrs and the wanton Fawns,  
Who haunt the forests, or frequent the lawns,  
The God whose ensign scares the birds of prey,  
And old Silenus, youthful in decay,

Employ'd their wiles, and unavailing care, 25  
To pass the fences, and surprize the fair?

Like these, Vertumnus own'd his faithful flame,  
Like these, rejected by the scornful dame.

To gain her sight a thousand forms he wears,  
And first a reaper from the field appears, 30

Sweating he walks, while loads of golden grain  
O'ercharge the shoulders of the seeming swain.

Oft o'er his back a crooked scythe is laid,  
And wreaths of hay his sun-burnt temples shade:

Oft in his harden'd hand a goad he bears, 35  
Like one who late unyok'd the sweating steers.

Sometimes his pruning-hook corrects the vines,  
And the loose straglers to their ranks confines.

§ Q

Falce data frondator erat, vitisque putator.  
 Induerat scalas, lecturum poma putares.  
 Miles erat gladio, piscator arundine sumta.  
 Denique per multas aditum sibi saepe figuras  
 Repperit, ut caperet spectatae gaudia formae.  
 Ille etiam picta redimitus tempora mitra, 45  
 Innitens baculo, positus ad tempora canis,  
 Adsimulavit anum : cultosque intravit in hortos ;  
 Pomaque mirata est : Tantoque potentior, inquit.  
 Paucaque laudatae dedit oscula ; qualia nunquam  
 Vera dedisset anus : glebaque incurva refedit,  
 Suspiciens pandos autumnii pondere ramos.  
 Ulmus erat contra, spatiosa tumentibus uvis : 60  
 Quam socia postquam pariter cum vite probavit ;  
 At si staret, ait, coelebs, sine palmite truncus,  
 Nil praeter frondes, quare peteretur, haberet.

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 243

Now gath'ring what the bounteous year allows,  
 He pulls ripe apples from the bending boughs. 40  
 A foldier now, he with his sword appears ;  
 A fisher next, his trembling angle bears ;  
 Each shape he varies, and each art he tries,  
 On her bright charms to feast his longing eyes.

A female form at last Vertumnus wears, 45 }  
 With all the marks of rev'rend age appears, }  
 His temples thinly spread with silver hairs ; }  
 Prop'd on his staff, and stooping as he goes,  
 A painted mitre shades his furrow'd brows.  
 The god in this decrepit form array'd, 50 }  
 The gardens enter'd, and the fruit survey'd, }  
 And " Happy you ! (he thus address'd the maid) }  
 " Whose charms as far all other nymphs out-shine,  
 " As other gardens are excell'd by thine !  
 Then kiss'd the fair ; (his kisses warmer grow 55  
 Than such as women on their sex bestow.)  
 Then plac'd beside her on the flow'ry ground,  
 Beheld the trees with autumn's bounty crown'd.  
 An Elm was near, to whose embraces led,  
 The curling vine her swelling clusters spread : 60  
 He view'd her twining branches with delight,  
 And prais'd the beauty of the pleasing sight.

§ Q 2



244 VERTUMNUS ET POMONA.

Haec quoque, quae juncta vitis requiescit in ulmo,  
Si non nupta foret, terrae adclinata jaceret.

Tu tamen exemplo non tangeris arboris hujus;  
Concubitusque fugis; nec te conjungere curas.

Atque utinam velles! Helene non pluribus esset  
Sollicitata procis: nec quae Lapitheia movit  
Proelia, nec conjux timidis audacis Ulyssæi.

Nunc quoque, cum fugias averserisque petentes,  
Mille proci cupiunt; et semideique deique, 75

Et quaecunque tenent Albanos numina montes.

Sed tu, si sapias, si te bene jungere, anumque

Hanc audire voles, (quae te plus omnibus illis, 80

Plus quam credis, amo) vulgares rejice taedas:

Vertumnumque tori socium tibi selige: pro quo

Me quoque pignus habe. neque enim sibi notior  
ille est,

Quam mihi. nec toto passim vagus errat in orbe.

Haec loca sola colit; nec, uti pars magna procorum,

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 245

Yet this tall elm, but for his vine (he said)  
Had stood neglected, and a barren shade ;  
And this fair vine, but that her arms surround 65  
Her marry'd elm, had crept along the ground.  
Ah beauteous maid, let this example move  
Your mind, averse from all the joys of love.  
Deign to be lov'd, and ev'ry heart subdue !  
What nymph could e'er attract such crouds as you ?  
Not she whose beauty urg'd the Centaurs arms, 71  
Ulysses' Queen, nor Helen's fatal charms.  
Ev'n now, when silent scorn is all they gain,  
A thousand court you, tho' they court in vain,  
A thousand sylvans, demigods, and gods, 75  
That haunt our mountains and our Alban woods.  
But if you'll prosper, mark what I advise,  
Whom age, and long experience render wise,  
And one whose tender care is far above  
All that these lovers ever felt of love, 80  
(Far more than e'er can by yourself be guest)  
Fix on Vertumnus, and reject the rest.  
For his firm faith I dare engage my own ;  
Scarce to himself, himself is better known.  
To distant lands Vertumnus never roves ; 85  
Like you, contented with his native groves ;

§ Q3

246 VERTUMNUS ET POMONA.

Quam modo vidit, amat. tu primus et ultimus illi  
Ardor eris; folique suos tibi devovet annos.

Adde, quod est juvenis: quod naturale decoris 90  
Munus habet; formasque apte fingetur in omnes:  
Et, quod erit jussus (jubeas licet omnia) fiet.

Quid, quod amatis idem? quod, quae tibi poma  
coluntur,

Primus habet; laetaque tenet tua munera dextra?

Sed neque jam foetus desiderat arbore demtos,

Nec, quas hortus alit, cum succis mitibus herbas;

Nec quidquam, nisi te. miserere ardentis: et ip-  
fum,

Qui petit, ore meo praesentem crede precari. —

Sic tibi nec vernum nascentia frigus adurat

Poma; nec excutiant rapidi florentia venti. 110

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 247

Nor at first sight, like most, admires the fair ; }  
 For you he lives ; and you alone shall share }  
 His last affection, as his early care. }  
 Besides, he's lovely far above the rest, 90  
 With youth immortal, and with beauty blest.  
 Add, that he varies ev'ry shape with ease,  
 And tries all forms that may Pomona please.  
 But what should most excite a mutual flame,  
 Your rural cares, and pleasures are the same : 95  
 To him your orchards early fruits are due,  
 (A pleasing off'ring when 'tis made by you)  
 He values these ; but yet (alas) complains,  
 That still the best and dearest gift remains.  
 Not the fair fruit that on yon' branches glows 100  
 With that ripe red th' autumnal sun bestows ;  
 Nor tasteful herbs that in these gardens rise,  
 Which the kind soil with milky sap supplies ;  
 You, only you, can move the God's desire :  
 Oh crown so constant and so pure a fire ! 105  
 Let soft compassion touch your gentle mind ;  
 Think, 'tis Vertumnus begs you to be kind !  
 So may no frost, when early buds appear,  
 Destroy the promise of the youthful year ; 109  
 Nor winds, when first your florid orchard blows,  
 Shake the light blossoms from their blasted boughs !

Haec ubi nequicquam formas Deus aptus in  
omnes,  
Edidit ; in juvenem rediit : et anilia demit  
Instrumenta sibi : talisque adparuit illi,  
Qualis ubi oppositas nitidissima solis imago 115  
Evcit nubes, nullaque obstante reluxit.  
Vimque parat : sed vi non est opus ; inque figura  
Capta Dei Nympha est, et mutua vulnera sentit.

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 249

This when the various God had urg'd in vain,  
He strait assum'd his native form again ;  
Such, and so bright an aspect now he bears, 114  
As when thro' clouds th' emerging sun appears,  
And thence exerting his refulgent ray,  
Dispels the darkness, and reveals the day.  
Force he prepar'd, but check'd the rash design ;  
For when, appearing in a form divine,  
The Nymph surveys him, and beholds the grace  
Of charming features, and a youthful face ! 121  
In her soft breast consenting passions move,  
And the warm maid confess'd a mutual love.

VERTEBRUM AMB. ROMANA. 119

This was the vision God had sent to  
the prophet his name long ago  
Such was the light on which he  
As when that clouds the morning  
And the sun setting his light  
To see the darkness and  
To see the light and  
For when evening is a  
The light is always  
Of evening  
In the  
And the light is

Done per the...