

A Tale out of Anacreon

Anacreon, "On Eros" (translator unknown)

Henry Lawes

Select Ayres and Dialogues - The Second Book (London 1669), pp. 5-6

Edited by Christopher Baum

At dead low ebb of night, when none But Great Charles' Wain was

5

dri - ven on, When mor - tals strict ces - sa - tion keep, to re - re - cruit them - selves with sleep,

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'Twas then a boy knocked at my gate. Who's there, said I, that calls so late? O let me

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in! he soon re - plied, I am a Child, and then he cried, I wan - der with-out

All accidentals, including those that are redundant according to modern usage, are reproduced (in modern form) where they appear in the source. Editorial accidentals applying to the vocal line are placed above the staff. For the thoroughbass, to avoid confusion with figures, editorial accidentals are given in square brackets and courtesy accidentals in round brackets. All other editorial matters are addressed in footnotes.

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20

guide or light, Lost in this wet, blind, moon - less night. In pi - ty then I

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rose, and straight Un - barr'd my door, and sprang a light: Be - hold, it was a love - ly

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boy, A sweet - er sight ne'er bless'd mine eye: I view'd him round, and saw strange things, A

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bow, a qui - ver, and two wings; I led him to the fire, and then I

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dried and chaf'd his hands with mine: I gent - ly press'd his tres - ses, curls, Which

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new-fall'n rain had hung with pearls: At last, when warm'd, the yon-ker said, A-las, my

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bow! I am a-fraid The string is wet; pray (sir) let's try, Let's try my bow. Do, do, said

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I. He bent it, shot, so quick and smart, As through my li-ver reach'd my heart.

57

Then in a trice he took his flight, And laugh-ing said, My bow is right, It is, O 'tis!

62

For as he spoke, 'Twas not his bow, but my heart is broke.

(1) The reading in the source is *though*, not *through*. This translation also appears in *The New Academy of Compliments* (1669); the version in that volume gives *through*, which seems to make more sense.