

Rape of the Lock

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<note>First published in 'Miscellaneous poems and translations', 1712, in two cantos.</note>
<note>Catchword p. 8: The.</note>
<note>Reproduction of original from the British Library.</note>
<note>Foxon, P941</note>
<note>Griffith, 29</note>
<note>English Short Title Catalog, ESTCT5726.</note>
<note>Electronic data. Farmington Hills, Mich. : Thomson Gale, 2003. Page image (PNG). Digitized image of the microfilm version produced in Woodbridge, CT by Research Publications, 1982-2002 (later known as Primary Source Microfilm, an imprint of the Gale Group).</note>
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<p>Written by Mr. <hi>POPE.</hi>
</p>
<q>
<p>—A tonso est hoc nomen adepta capillo.</p>
<bibl>OVID.</bibl>
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<p>LONDON: Printed for BERNARD LINTOTT, at the <hi>Cross-
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<salute>MADAM,</salute>
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<p>
<seg rend="decorInit">I</seg>T will be in vain to deny that I
have some Value for this Piece, since I Dedicate it to You.
Yet You may bear me Witness, it was intended only to divert a
few young
<pb facs="tcp:0272601000:4"/>
Ladies, who have good Sense and good Humour enough, to laugh
not only at their Sex's little unguarded Follies, but at their
own. But as it was communicated with the Air of a Secret, it

soon found its way into the World. An imperfect Copy having been offer'd to a Bookseller, You had the Good-Nature for my Sake to consent to the Publication of one more correct: This I was forc'd to be^{fore} I had executed half my Design, for the Machinery was entirely wanting to compleat it.

The Machinery, Madam, is a Term invented by the Criticks, to signify that Part which the Deities, Angels, or Dæmons, are made to act in a Poem: For the ancient Poets are in one respect like

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many modern Ladies; Let an Action be never so trivial in it self, they always make it appear of the utmost Importance. These Machines I determin'd to raise on a very new and odd Foundation, the Rosicrucian Doctrine of Spirits.

I know how disagreeable it is to make use of hard Words before a Lady; but 'tis so much the Concern of a Poet to have his Works understood, and particularly by your Sex, that You must give me leave to explain two or three difficult Terms.

The Rosicrucians are a People I must bring You acquainted with. The best Account I know of them is in a French Book call'd Le Comte de Gabalis, which

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both in its Title and Size is so like a Novel, that many of the Fair Sex have read it for one by Mistake. According to these Gentlemen, the four Elements are inhabited by Spirits, which they call Sylphs, Gnomes, Nymphs, and Salamanders. The Gnomes, or Daemons of Earth, delight in Mischief; but the Sylphs, whose Habitation is Air, are the best-condition'd Creatures imaginable. For they say, any Mortals may enjoy the most intimate Familiarities with these gentle Spirits, upon a Condition very easie to all true Adepts, an inviolate Preservation of Chastity.

<p>As to the following Canto's, all the Passages of them are as Fabulous, as the Vision at the Beginning, or the Transfor<g ref="char:EOLhyphen"/>mation at the End; (except the Loss of <pb facs="tcp:0272601000:7"/>

your Hair, which I always name with Re<g ref="char:EOLhyphen"/>verence.) The Human Persons are as Ficti<g ref="char:EOLhyphen"/>tious as the Airy ones; and the Character of <hi>Belinda,</hi> as it is now manag'd, resem<g ref="char:EOLhyphen"/>bles You in nothing but in Beauty.</p>

<p>If this Poem had as many Graces as there are in Your Person, or in Your Mind, yet I could never hope it should pass thro' the World half so Uncensured as You have done. But let its Fortune be what it will, mine is happy enough, to have given me this Occasion of assuring You that I am, with the truest Esteem,</p>

<closer>

<salute>Madam,</salute>

<signed>Your Most Obedient Humble Servant. <hi>A. POPE.</hi>

</signed>

</closer>

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