

Andrew Marvell

The Complete Poems

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And while Jove governs in the highest sphere,
Vainly in Hell let Pluto domineer.

Bermudas

Where the remote Bermudas ride
In the ocean's bosom unespied,
From a small boat, that rowed along,
The listening winds received this song.
 'What should we do but sing his praise
That led us through the watery maze,
Unto an isle so long unknown,
And yet far kinder than our own?
Where he the huge sea-monsters wracks,
10 That lift the deep upon their backs,
He lands us on a grassy stage,
Safe from the storms, and prelate's rage.
He gave us this eternal spring,
Which here enamels everything,
And sends the fowl to us in care,
On daily visits through the air.
He hangs in shades the orange bright,
Like golden lamps in a green night,
And does in the pom'granates close
20 Jewels more rich than Ormus shows.
He makes the figs our mouths to meet,
And throws the melons at our feet,
But apples plants of such a price,
No tree could ever bear them twice.
With cedars, chosen by his hand,
From Lebanon, he stores the land,
And makes the hollow seas, that roar,
Proclaim the ambergris on shore.
He cast (of which we rather boast)
30 The gospel's pearl upon our coast,
And in these rocks for us did frame
A temple, where to sound his name.

Oh let our voice his praise exalt,
Till it arrive at heaven's vault:
Which thence (perhaps) rebounding, may
Echo beyond the Mexique Bay.'

Thus sung they, in the English boat,
An holy and a cheerful note,
And all the way, to guide their chime,
With falling oars they kept the time.

A Letter to Doctor Ingelo

(THEN WITH MY LORD WHITLOCKE, AMBASSADOR
FROM THE PROTECTOR TO THE QUEEN OF SWEDEN)

Quid facis arctoi charissime transfuga caeli,
 Ingele, proh sero cognite, rapte cito?
Num satis hybernum defendis pellibus astrum,
 Qui modo tam mollis nec bene firmus eras?
Quae gentes hominum, quae sit natura locorum,
 Sint homines, potius dic ibi sintne loca?
Num gravis horrisono polus obruit omnia lapsu,
 Jungitur et praeceps mundus utraque nive?
An melius canis horrescit campus aristas,
10 Annuus agricolis et redit orbe labor?
Incolit, ut fertur, saevam gens mitior oram,
 Pace vigil, bello strenua, justa foro.
Quin ibi sunt urbes, atque alta palatia regum,
 Musarumque domus, et sua templa Deo.
Nam regit imperio populum Christina ferocem,
 Et dare jura potest regia virgo viris.
Utque trahit rigidum magnae aquilone metallum,
 Gaudet eam soboles ferrea sponte sequi.
Dic quantum licet fallaci credere famae,
20 Invida num taceat plura, sonetve loquax.
At, si vera fides, mundi melioris ab ortu,
 Saecula Christinae nulla tulere parem.
Ipsa licet redeat (nostri decus orbis) Eliza,
 Qualis nostra tamen quantaque Eliza fuit.

the fact that *after* their defeat in the First Punic War, the Carthaginians then consented to negotiate a peace (ll. 141-2) and (b) to the current division within Parliament of a pro- and an anti-war party.

BERMUDAS

First published in the Folio, this psalmic and descriptive lyric was presumably composed sometime after July 1653 when Marvell went to Eton to assume a position as tutor to William Dutton, later a ward of Cromwell's. There he lodged in the house of the Puritan divine John Oxenbridge, a Fellow of Eton College, who in 1634 had been persecuted by Archbishop Laud (alluded to in l. 12) and had made two trips to the Bermudas. Thus Marvell could have had a firsthand account of the locale; he also seems to have known Waller's mock-epic *The Battle of the Summer Islands*, 1645 (as the Bermudas were sometimes called after the shipwreck there of Sir George Somers in 1609), and perhaps, as Margoliouth suggests, Captain John Smith's *The General History of Virginia, New England and the Summer Isles*, 1624.

7 *an isle so long unknown* the Bermudas were discovered in 1515 by Juan Bermudez.

9 *the huge sea-monsters wracks* apparently alluding to 'the dreadful fight' in Waller's poem between the Bermudas and two stranded whales.

15 *fowl*] *Eng. poet. d.* 49; *fowl's F.* Cf. the use of the singular 'orange' in l. 17.

17-28 *He hangs in shades* Cf. Waller l. 6-11:

That happy island where huge lemons grow,
And orange trees, which golden fruit do bear,
The Hesperian garden boasts of none so fair;
Where shining pearl, coral and many a pound,
On the rich shore, of ambergris is found.
The lofty cedar, which to heaven aspires,
The prince of trees! is fuel for their fires.

20 *Ormus* Hormuz, on the Persian Gulf.

23 *apples* pineapples.

28 *Proclaim* make known.

ambergris the musky secretion of the sperm whale, called 'sea-born amber' in *Upon Appleton House*, (l. 180), and described in *The Gallery* (ll. 37-8) as a mass borne in on the rolling wave.

A LETTER TO DOCTOR INGELO

A Fellow of Eton, Nathaniel Ingelo accompanied Bulstrode Whitlocke, Ambassador Extraordinary, to the court of Queen Christina in the fall of

1653. Marvell had apparently met Ingelo shortly before his departure (see l. 2) and written him the epistle so that he might show it to the Queen, taking the occasion not only to commend Christina but also Cromwell and the political alliance (see ll. 97-104). The successful mission returned to London in July 1654; in 1658 Ingelo received the degree of D.D. from Oxford.

See W. Hilton Kelliher ('Marvell's A Letter to Doctor Ingelo', *RES XX*, 1969, 50-57) for an account of an eighteenth-century partial printing which may derive from the copy the ambassador showed to Queen Christina.

21 *mundi melioris ab ortu* that is, from the beginning of the Christian era.

32 *nympha Parrhasis* (also called Callisto), an attendant of Diana, was seduced by Zeus who changed her into a bear and ultimately into the constellation Ursa Major.

36 *Delia* a surname of Diana from her birthplace in Delos.

37 *Trivia* a surname of Diana from her function of presiding over places where three roads met.

43-4 *nympharum . . . perque nives* recalling *Aeneid* I, 498-501 and Ovid, *Metamorphoses* III, 182.

Cynthi a mountain of Delos.

perque] *Cooke* + ; per *F.*

48 *fovet*] *Grosart* + ; foret *F.*

49-50 *Alcides . . . pelle Nemeaea . . . orbis onus* After slaying the Nemean lion - his first labour - Hercules clothed himself in its skin; in quest of the apples of the Hesperides - his eleventh labour - he undertook for a time to hold up the heavens.

55 *chlamys* short mantle.

57 *tribus spernat . . . certare deabus* alluding to the judgement of Paris as to whether Juno, Minerva, or Venus was the fairest; to ensure her selection, Juno offered Paris the promise of a kingdom, Minerva intellectual and military renown - prizes which Queen Christina, according to the poet, already bears away though she scorns the bribe of love which Venus proffered.

74 *geminis . . . sonis* Latin and Swedish.

81 *lacte . . . melle* as in the Promised Land (Ex. iii 8).

82 *Salam* located about forty miles from Upsala.

83 *Upsalides Musae . . .* recalling Vergil's *Ecl.* IV, 1: *Sicelides Musae, paulo maiora canemus.*

92 *virgo Volsiniensis* alluding to the drowning of St Christina in Lake Bolsena in AD 278.

97 *ille*] *Cooke* + ; *illa F.*

99 *aquilam* symbolizing the Holy Roman Empire.

100 *lupam* symbolizing Rome and the Catholic Church.