

# "The Rape of the Lock"

By Alexander Pope

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The Rape of the Lock ,<sup>title</sup>  
AN  
HEROI-COMICAL,<sup>Heroi-Comical</sup>  
POEM.  
In Five Canto's  
Written by Mr. POPE.  
—A tonso est hoc nomen adepta capillo.,<sup>nomen</sup>  
OVID.

LONDON  
Printed for Bernard Lintott, at the  
Cross-keys in Fleetstreet . 1714.

- [Epistle.1] -

TO  
Mrs. ARABELLA FERMOUR.,<sup>Arabella</sup>

MADAM,

It will be in vain to deny that I have some value for this piece, since I dedicate,<sup>dedicate</sup> it to you. Yet you may bear me witness, it was intended only to divert a few young

- [Epistle.2] -

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 before I had executed half my Design, for the Machinery,<sup>machinery</sup> was entirely wanting to compleat it.

The Machinery Madam, is a Term invented by the Critiks, 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

- [Epistle.3] -

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*, *Rosicrucian* Doctrine of Spirits.

I know how disagreeable it is to make use of hard Words before a Lady, <sup>Lady</sup>; 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 the People I must bring You acquainted with. The best Account I know of them is in the French Book call'd Le Comte de Gabalis, <sup>Gabalis</sup>, which

- [Epistle.4] -

both in its Title and Size is so like a *Novel*, that many of the fair Sex have read it for one by Mistake., <sup>novel</sup> According to these Gentlemen, the four Elements are inhabited by Spirits, which they call *Sylphs*, *Gnomes*, *Nymphs*, and *Salamanders*. The *Gnomes*, or Dæmons of Earth, delight in Mischief; but the *Sylphs*, whose Habitation is Air, are the best-condition'd Creatures imaginable. For the 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.

As to the following Canto's, all the Passages of them are as Fabulous, as the Vision at the beginning, or the Transformation at the End; (except the Loss of your

- [Epistle.5] -

Hair, which I always name with Reverence.) The Human Persons are as Fictitious as the Airy ones; and the Character of *Belinda*, as it is now manag'd, resembles You in nothing but in Beauty.

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,

*Madam,*  
*Your Most Obedient*  
*Humble Servant.*  
A. POPE.

Figure 1, [Figure\\_1](#)

# THE RAPE *of the* LOCK.

## CANTO I.

1 WHAT dire Offence from am'rous Causes springs,  
2 What mighty Quarrels rise from Trivial Things,  
3 I sing -- This Verse to C---l, <sup>*caryll*</sup>, Muse! is due;  
6 This, ev'n Belinda, <sup>*Belinda*</sup> may vouchsafe to view:  
7 Slight is the Subject, but not so the Praise,  
8 If She inspire, and He approve my Lays.

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1 Say what strange Motive, Goddess! cou'd compel  
2 A well-bred *Lord* t'assault a gentle *Belle*?  
3 Oh say what stranger Cause, yet unexplor'd,  
4 Cou'd make a gentle *Belle* reject a *Lord* ?  
5 And dwells such Rage in softest Bosoms then?  
6 And lodge such daring Souls in Little Men?  
7 Sol, <sup>*Sol*</sup> thro' white Curtains did his Beams display,  
8 And op'd those Eyes which brighter shine than they;  
9 Now Shock, <sup>*Shock*</sup> had giv'n himself the rowzing Shake,  
10 And Nymphs prepar'd their Chocolate, <sup>*chocolate*</sup> to take;  
11 Thrice the wrought Slipper knock'd against the Ground,, <sup>*slipper*</sup>  
12 And striking Watches, <sup>*watches*</sup> the tenth Hour resound.  
13 *Belinda* still her downy Pillow prest,  
14 Her Guardian Sylph, <sup>*sylph*</sup> prolong'd the balmy Rest.  
15 'Twas he, <sup>*Ariel*</sup> had summon'd to her silent Bed  
16 The Morning Dream that hover'd o'er her Head.  
17 A Youth more glitt'ring than a Birth-night Beau, <sup>*beau*</sup>,  
18 (That ev'n in Slumber caus'd her Cheek to glow)

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19 Seem'd to her Ear his winning Lips to lay,  
20 And thus in Whispers said, or seem'd to say.

21 Fairest of Mortals, thou distinguish'd Care  
22 Of thousand bright Inhabitants of Air!  
23 If e'er one Vision touch'd thy infant Thought,  
24 Of all the Nurse and all the Priest have taught,  
25 Of airy Elves by Moonlight Shadows seen,  
26 The silver Token, <sup>Token</sup>, and the circled Green,  
27 Or Virgins visited by Angel-Pow'rs,  
28 With Golden Crowns and Wreaths of heav'nly Flowers,  
29 Hear and believe! thy own Importance know,  
30 Nor bound thy narrow Views to Things below.  
31 Some secret Truths from Learned Pride conceal'd,  
32 To Maids alone and Children are reveal'd:  
33 What tho' no Credit doubting Wits may give?  
34 The Fair and Innocent shall still believe.  
35 Know then, unnumbered Spirits round thee fly,  
36 The light Militia, <sup>militia</sup> of the lower Sky;

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37 These, tho' unseen, are ever on the Wing, <sup>wing</sup>,  
38 Hang o'er the Box, <sup>box</sup>, and hover round the Ring, <sup>ring</sup>.  
39 Think what an Equipage, <sup>equipage</sup> thou hast in Air,  
40 And view with scorn Two Pages and a Chair, <sup>chair</sup>.  
41 As now your own, our Beings were of old,  
42 And once inclos'd in Woman's beauteous Mold, <sup>mold</sup>;  
43 Thence, by a soft Transition, <sup>transition</sup>, we repair  
44 From earthly Vehicles to those of Air.  
45 Think not, when Woman's transient Breath is fled,  
46 That all her Vanities at once are dead:  
47 Succeeding Vanities she still regards,  
48 And tho' she plays no more, o'erlooks the Cards., <sup>cards</sup>. \.  
49 Her Joy in gilded Chariots, when alive,  
50 And Love of Ombre, <sup>Ombre</sup>, after Death survive.  
51 For when the Fair in all their Pride expire,  
52 To their first Elements the Souls retire;  
53 The Sprights of fiery Termagants in Flame, <sup>sprights</sup>  
54 Mount up, and take a Salamander's Name.  
55 Soft yielding Minds to Water glide away,  
56 And sip with Nymphs, their Elemental Tea.

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57 The graver Prude sinks downward to a Gnome,  
58 In search of Mischief still on Earth to roam.  
59 The light Coquettes in Sylphs aloft repair,  
60 And sport and flutter in the Fields of Air.



61 Know farther yet; Whoever fair and chaste  
62 Rejects Mankind, is by some *Sylph* embrac'd:  
63 For Spirits, freed from mortal Laws, with ease  
64 Assume what Sexes and what Shapes they please.  
65 What guards the Purity of melting Maids,  
66 In Courtly Balls, and Midnight Masquerades,  
67 Safe from the treach'rous Friend, and daring Spark,  
68 The Glance by Day, the Whisper in the Dark;  
69 When kind Occasion prompts their warm Desires,  
70 When Musick softens, and when Dancing fires?  
71 'Tis but their *Sylph* , the wise Celestials know,  
72 Tho' *Honour*, <sup>honour</sup> is the Word with Men below.

73 Some Nymphs there are, too conscious of their Face,  
74 For Life predestin'd to the *Gnomes* Embrace

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75 Who swell their Prospects and exalt their Pride,  
76 When Offers are disdain'd, and Love deny'd.  
77 Then gay Ideas crowd the vacant Brain;  
78 While Peers and Dukes, and all their sweeping Train,  
79 And Garters, Stars, and Coronets appear,  
80 And in soft Sounds, *Your Grace* salutes their Ear.  
81 'Tis these that early taint the Female Soul,  
82 Instruct the Eyes of young *Coquettes* to roll,  
83 Teach Infants Cheeks a bidden Blush to know,  
84 And little Hearts to flutter at a *Beau* .

85 Oft when the World imagine Women stray,  
86 The *Sylphs* thro' mystick Mazes guide thier Way,  
87 Thro' all the giddy Circle they pursue,  
88 And old Impertinence expel by new.  
89 What tender Maid but must a Victim fall  
90 To one Man's Treat, but for another's Ball?  
91 When *Florio*, <sup>florio</sup> speaks, what Virgin could withstand,  
92 If gentle *Damon*, <sup>n051</sup> did not squeeze her Hand?

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93 With varying Vanities, from ev'ry Part,  
94 They shift the moving Toyshop of their Heart;  
95 Where Wigs with Wigs, with Sword-knots Sword-knots strive,  
96 Beaus banish Beaus, and Coaches Coaches drive.  
97 This erring Mortals Levity may call,  
98 Oh blind to Truth! the *Sylphs* contrive it all.

99 Of these am I, who thy Protection claim,

100 A watchful Sprite, and *Ariel* is my Name.  
101 Late, as I rang'd the Crystal Wilds of Air,  
102 In the clear Mirror of thy ruling *Star*  
103 I saw, alas! some dread Event impend,  
104 E're to the Main, <sup>main</sup> this Morning's Sun descend.  
105 But Heav'n reveals not what, or how, or where:  
106 Warn'd by thy *Sylph* , oh Pious Maid beware!  
107 This to disclose is all thy Guardian can.  
108 Beware of all, but most beware of Man!

109 He said; when *Shock* , who thought she slept too long,  
110 Leapt up, and wak'd his Mistress with his Tongue.

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111 'Twas then *Belinda* ! if Report say true,  
112 Thy Eyes first open'd on a Billet-doux, <sup>billet-doux</sup> ;  
113 *Wounds*, *Charms* , and *Ardors* , were no sooner read  
114 But all the Vision vanish'd from thy Head.

114 And now, unveil'd, the Toilet, <sup>toilet</sup> stands display'd,  
116 Each Silver Vase in mystic Order laid.  
117 First, rob'd in White, the Nymph intent adores  
118 With Head uncover'd, the *cosmetic* Pow'rs.  
119 A heav'nly Image in the Glass, <sup>glass</sup> appears,  
120 To that she bends, to that her Eyes she rears;  
121 Th' inferior Priestess, at her Altar's, <sup>altar</sup> side,  
122 Trembling, begins the sacred Rites of Pride  
123 Unnumber'd Treasures ope at once, and here  
124 The various Off'rings of the World , <sup>world</sup> appear;  
125 From each she nicely culls with curious Toil,  
126 And decks the Goddess with the glitt'ring Spoil, <sup>spoil</sup> .  
127 This Casket, <sup>casket</sup> *India* 's glowing Gems, <sup>gems</sup> unlocks,  
128 And all *Arabia*, <sup>Arabia</sup> breaths from yonder Box.

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129 The Tortoise here and Elephant , <sup>tortoise</sup> unite,  
130 Transform'd to *Combs* , the speckled and the white.  
131 Here Files of Pins extend their shining Rows,  
132 Puffs, Powders, Patches, <sup>patches</sup> , Bibles, Billet-doux.  
133 Now awful, <sup>awful</sup> Beauty puts on all its Arms, <sup>arms</sup> ;  
134 The Fair each moment rises in her Charms,  
135 Repairs her Smiles, awakens ev'ry Grace,  
136 And calls forth all the Wonders of her Face;  
137 Sees by Degrees a purer Blush arise,

138 And keener Lightnings quicken in her Eyes.  
139 The busy *Sylphs* surround their darling Care;  
140 These set the Head, and those divide the Hair,  
141 Some fold the Sleeve, while others plait the Gown;  
142 And Betty, *Betty* 's prais'd for Labours not her own.

Figure 2, [Figure\\_2](#)

## THE RAPE *of the* LOCK.

### CANTO II.

1 NOT with more Glories, in th' Etherial,<sup>etherial</sup> Plain,  
2 The Sun first rises o'er the purpled Main,  
3 Than issuing forth, the Rival,<sup>rival</sup> of his Beams  
4 Lanch'd on the Bosom of the Silver *Thames* .  
5 Fair Nymphs,<sup>nymphs</sup>, and well-drest Youths around her shone,  
6 But ev'ry Eye was fix'd on her alone.  
7 On her white Breast a sparkling *Cross* she wore,  
8 Which Jews,<sup>cross</sup> might kiss, and Infidels adore.

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9 Her lively Looks a sprightly Mind disclose,  
10 Quick as her Eyes, and as unfix'd as those:  
11 Favours to none, to all she Smiles extends,  
12 Oft she rejects, but never once offends.  
13 Bright as the Sun, her Eyes the Gazers strike,  
14 And, like the sun, they shine on all alike.  
15 Yet graceful Ease, and Sweetness void of Pride,  
16 Might hide her Faults, if *Belles* had faults to hide:  
17 If to her share some Female Errors fall,  
18 Look on her Face, and you'll forget 'em all.

19 This Nymph,<sup>nymph</sup>, to the Destruction of Mankind,  
20 Nourish'd two Locks, which graceful hung behind  
21 In equal Curls, and well conspir'd to deck  
22 With shining Ringlets her smooth Iv'ry,<sup>ivory</sup> Neck.  
23 Love in these Labyrinths his Slaves detains,  
24 And mighty Hearts are held in slender Chains.  
25 With hairy Sprindges,<sup>sprindges</sup> we the Birds betray,  
26 Slight Lines of Hair surprize the Finny Prey,<sup>finney</sup> ,

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27 Fair Tresses,<sup>tresses</sup> Man's Imperial Race insnare,  
28 And Beauty draws us with a single Hair.

29 Th' Adventrous *Baron* the bright Locks admir'd,  
30 He saw, he wish'd, and to the Prize aspir'd:  
31 Resolv'd to win, he meditates the way,  
32 By Force to ravish, or by Fraud betray;  
33 For when Success, <sup>success</sup> a Lover's Toil attends,  
34 Few ask, if Fraud or Force attain'd his Ends.

35 For this, e're Phaebus, <sup>Phaebus</sup> rose, he had implor'd  
36 Propitious Heav'n, and ev'ry Pow'r ador'd,  
37 But chiefly *Love* ---to *Love* an Altar built,  
38 Of twelve vast *French* Romances, neatly gilt.  
39 There lay the Sword-knot, <sup>sword-knot</sup> *Sylvia* 's Hands had sown,  
40 With *Flavia's* Busk, <sup>busk</sup> that oft had rapp'd his own:  
41 A Fan, a Garter, half a Pair of Gloves;  
42 And all the Trophies of his former Loves.  
43 With tender Bilet-doux, <sup>bilet-doux</sup> he lights the Pyre,  
44 And breaths three am'rous Sighs to raise the Fire.

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45 Then prostrate, <sup>prostrate</sup> falls, and begs with ardent Eyes  
46 Soon to obtain, and long possess the Prize, <sup>Prize</sup> :  
47 The Pow'rs gave Ear, <sup>Ear</sup> , and granted half his Pray'r,  
48 The rest, the Winds dispers'd in empty Air.

49 But now secure the Painted Vessel, <sup>Vessel</sup> glides,  
50 The Sun-beams trembling on the floating Tydes,  
51 While melting Musick steals upon the Sky,  
52 And soften'd Sounds along the Waters die.  
53 Smooth flow the Waves, the Zephyrs, <sup>zephyrs</sup> gently play  
54 *Belinda* smil'd, and all the World was gay.  
55 All but the *Sylph* ----With careful Thoughts opprest,  
56 Th' impending Woe sate heavy on his Breast.  
57 He summons strait his Denizens, <sup>Denizens</sup> of Air;  
58 The lucid, <sup>lucid</sup> Squadrons round the Sails repair:  
59 Soft o'er the Shrouds Aerial Whispers breath,  
60 That seem'd but *Zephyrs* to the Train beneath.  
61 Some to the Sun their Insect-Wings unfold,  
62 Waft on the Breeze, or sink in Clouds of Gold.

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63 Transparent Forms, too fine for mortal Sight,  
64 Their fluid Bodies half dissolv'd in Light.  
65 Loose to the Wind their airy Garments flew,  
66 Thin glitt'ring Textures of the filmy Dew;

67 Dipt in the richest Tincture, <sup>Tincture</sup> of the Skies,  
68 Where Light disports in ever-mingling Dies, <sup>Dies</sup> ,  
69 While ev'ry Beam new transient Colours flings,  
70 Colours that change whene'er they wave their Wings.  
71 Amid the Circle, on the gilded Mast,  
72 Superior by the Head, was *Ariel* plac'd;  
73 His Purple Pinions, <sup>Pinions</sup> opening to the Sun,  
74 He rais'd his Azure, <sup>Azure</sup> Wand, and thus begun.

75 Ye *Sylphs* and *Sylphids* , to your Chief, <sup>Chief</sup> give Ear,  
76 *Fays, Fairies, Genii, Elves* , and *Daemons* hear!  
77 Ye know the Spheres and various Tasks assign'd,  
78 By Laws Eternal, to th' Aerial Kind.  
79 Some in the Fields of purest *AEther* play,  
80 And bask and whiten in the Blaze of Day.

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81 Some guide the Course of wandering Orbs, <sup>orbs</sup> on high,  
82 Or roll the Planets thro' the boundless Sky.  
83 Some less refin'd, beneath the Moon's pale Light  
84 Hover, and catch the shooting stars by Night;  
85 Or suck the Mists in grosser Air below,  
86 Or dip their Pinions in the painted Bow, <sup>Bow</sup> ,  
87 Or brew fierce Tempests on the wintry Main.  
88 Or on the Glebe, <sup>glebe</sup> distill the kindly Rain.  
89 Others on Earth o'er human Race preside,  
90 Watch all their Ways, and all their Actions guide:  
91 Of these the Chief the Care of Nations own,  
92 And guard with Arms Divine the *British Throne* .

93 Our humbler Province is to tend the Fair, <sup>Fair</sup> ,  
94 Not a less pleasing, tho' less glorious Care.  
95 To save the Powder, <sup>Powder</sup> from too rude a Gale,  
96 Nor let th' imprison'd Essences exhale,  
97 To draw fresh Colours from the vernal, <sup>vernal</sup> Flow'rs,  
98 To steal from Rainbows ere they drop in Show'rs

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99 A brighter Wash; to curl their waving Hairs,  
100 Assist their Blushes, and inspire their Airs;  
101 Nay oft, in Dreams, Invention we bestow,  
102 To change a Flounce, <sup>Flounce</sup> , or add a Furbelo, <sup>Furbelow</sup> .

103 This Day, black Omens threat the brightest Fair, <sup>brightest</sup>

104 That e'er deserv'd a watchful Spirit's Care;  
105 Some dire Disaster, or by Force, or Slight,  
106 But what, or where, the Fates have wrapt, <sup>wrapt</sup> in Night.  
107 Whether the Nymph shall break Diana, <sup>Diana</sup> 's Law,  
108 Or some frail China Jar receive a Flaw,  
109 Or stain her Honour, or her new Brocade, <sup>Brocade</sup> ,  
110 Forget her Pray'rs, or miss a Masquerade,  
111 Or lose her Heart, or Necklace, at a Ball;  
112 Or whether Heav'n has doom'd that Shock must fall.  
113 Haste then ye Spirits! to your Charge repair;  
114 The flutt'ring Fan be Zephyretta, <sup>Zephyretta</sup> 's Care;  
115 The Drops to thee, Brillante, <sup>Brillante</sup> , we consign;  
116 And Momentilla, <sup>Momentilla</sup> , let the Watch be thine;

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117 Do thou, Crispissa, <sup>Crispissa</sup> , tend her fav'rite Lock;  
118 Ariel himself shall be the Guard of Shock .  
  
119 To Fifty chosen Sylphs , of special Note,  
120 We trust th' important Charge, the Petticoat :  
121 Oft have we known that sev'nfold Fence to fail;  
122 Tho' stiff with Hoops, and arm'd with Ribs of Whale, <sup>Ribs</sup> .  
123 Form a strong Line about the Silver Bound,  
124 And guard the wide Circumference around.  
  
125 Whatever spirit, careless of his Charge,  
126 His Post neglects, or leaves the Fair at large,  
127 Shall feel sharp Vengeance soon o'ertake his Sins,  
128 Be stopt, <sup>stopt</sup> in Vials, <sup>Vials</sup> , or transfixt with Pins ;  
129 Or plung'd in Lakes of bitter Washes lie,  
130 Or wedg'd whole Ages in a Bodkin's, <sup>bodkin</sup> Eye:  
131 Gums and Pomatums, <sup>pomatums</sup> shall his Flight restrain,  
132 While clog'd he beats his silken Wings in vain;  
133 Or Alom- Stypticks, <sup>styptick</sup> with contracting Power  
134 Shrink his thin Essence like a rivell'd Flower.

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135 Or as Ixion, <sup>Ixion</sup> fix'd, the Wretch shall feel  
136 The giddy Motion of the whirling Mill, <sup>Mill</sup>  
137 Midst Fumes of burning Chocolate shall glow,  
138 And tremble at the Sea, <sup>Sea</sup> that froaths below!  
  
139 He, <sup>He</sup> spoke; the Spirits from the Sails descend;



140 Some, Orb in Orb, around the Nymph, <sup>Nymph</sup> extend,  
141 Some thrid, <sup>thrid</sup> the mazy Ringlets of her Hair,  
142 Some hang upon the Pendants of her Ear;  
143 With beating Hearts the dire Event they wait,  
144 Anxious, and trembling for the Birth of Fate.

Figure 3, [Figure\\_3](#)

## THE RAPE *of the* LOCK.

### CANTO III.

1 CLOSE by those Meads, <sup>meads</sup> for ever crown'd with Flow'rs,  
2 Where *Thames* with Pride surveys his rising Tow'rs,  
3 There stands a Structure of Majestick Frame,  
4 Which from the neighb'ring Hampton, <sup>Hampton</sup> takes its Name.  
5 Here *Britain* 's Statesmen oft the Fall foredoom  
6 Of Foreign Tyrants, and of Nymphs at home;  
7 Here Thou, great *Anna*, <sup>Anne</sup> ! whom three Realms obey,  
8 Dost sometimes Counsel take--and sometimes *Tea* .

9 Hither the Heroes and the Nymphs resort,  
10 To taste awhile the Pleasures of a Court;  
11 In various Talk th' instructive hours they past,  
12 Who gave a *Ball* , or paid the *Visit* last:  
13 One speaks the Glory of the *British Queen* ,  
14 And one describes a charming *Indian Screen* ;  
15 A third interprets Motions, Looks, and Eyes;  
16 At ev'ry Word a Reputation dies.  
17 *Snuff* , or the *Fan* , supply each Pause of Chat,  
18 With singing, laughing, ogling, and all that.  
  
19 Mean while declining from the Noon of Day,  
20 The Sun obliquely shoots his burning Ray;  
21 The hungry Judges soon the Sentence sign,  
22 And Wretches hang that Jury-men may Dine;  
23 The Merchant from th' *Exchange* returns in Peace,  
24 And the long Labours of the *Toilette* cease ----  
25 *Belinda* now, whom Thirst of Fame invites,  
26 Burns to encounter two adventrous Knights,

27 At *Ombre*, <sup>ombre</sup> singly to decide their Doom;  
28 And swells her Breast with Conquests yet to come.  
29 Strait the three Bands prepare in Arms to join,  
30 Each Band the number of the Sacred Nine.

31 Soon as she spreads her Hand, th' Aerial Guard  
32 Descend, and fit on each important Card,  
33 First *Ariel* perch'd upon a *Matadore*, *matadore* ,  
34 Then each, according to the Rank they bore;  
35 For *Sylphs* , yet mindful of their ancient Race,  
36 Are, as when Women, wondrous fond of place.  
  
37 Behold, four *Kings* in Majesty rever'd,  
38 With hoary Whiskers and a forky Beard;  
39 And four fair *Queens* whose hands sustain a Flow'r,  
40 Th' expressive Emblem of their softer Pow'r;  
41 Four *Knaves* in Garbs succinct, a trusty Band,  
42 Caps on their heads, and Halberds in their hand;  
43 And Particolour'd Troops, a shining Train,  
44 Draw forth to Combat on the *Velvet Plain*, *Velvet-Plain* .

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45 The skilful Nymph reviews her *Force*, *Force* with Care;  
46 *Let Spades be Trumps*, *Trumps* , she said, and Trumps they were.  
47 Now move to War her Sable *matadores* ,  
48 In Show like Leaders of the swarthy *Moors* .  
49 *Spadillio* first, unconquerable Lord!  
50 Led off two captive Trumps, and swept the Board  
51 As many more *Manillio* forc'd to yield,  
52 And march'd a Victor from the verdant Field.  
53 Him *Basto* follow'd, but his Fate more hard  
54 Gain'd but one Trump and one *Plebeian* Card.  
55 With his broad Sabre next, a Chief in Years,  
56 The hoary Majesty of *Spades* appears;  
57 Puts forth one manly Leg, to fight reveal'd;  
58 The rest his many-colour'd Robe conceal'd.  
59 The Rebel- *Knave* , that dares his Prince engage,  
60 Proves the just Victim of his Royal Rage.  
61 Ev'n mighty *Pam* that Kings and Queens o'erthrow,  
62 And mow'd down Armies in the Fights of *Lu* ,  
63 And Chance of War! now, destitute of Aid,  
64 Falls undistinguish'd by the Victor *Spade*, *Spade* !

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65 Thus far both Armies to *Belinda* yield;  
66 Now to the *Baron*, *Baron* Fate inclines the Field.  
67 His warlike *Amazon* her Host invades,  
68 Th' Imperial Consort of the Crown of *Spades* .  
69 The *Club's* black Tyrant first her Victim dy'd,  
70 Spite of his haughty Mien, and barb'rous Pride:

71 What boots the Regal Circle on his Head,  
72 His Giant Limbs in State unwiedly spread?  
73 That long behind he trails his pompous Robe,  
74 And of all Monarchs only grasps the Globe, <sup>Globe</sup> ?

75 The *Baron* now his *Diamonds* pours apace;  
76 Th' embroider'd *King* who shows but half his Face,  
77 And his refulgent *Queen* , with Pow'rs combin'd,  
78 Of broken Troops an easie Conquest find.  
79 *Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts* , in wild Disorder seen,  
80 With Throngs promiscuous strow the level Green.  
81 Thus when dispers'd a routed Army runs,  
82 Of *Asia* 's Troops, and *Africk* 's Sable Sons,

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83 With like Confusion different Nations fly,  
84 In various habits and of various Dye,  
85 The pierc'd Battalions dis-united fall,  
86 In Heaps on Heaps; one Fate o'erwhelms them all.

87 The *Knave* of *Diamonds* now exerts his Arts,  
88 And wins (oh shameful Chance!) the *Queen* of *Hearts* .  
89 At this, the Blood the Virgin's Cheek forsook,  
90 A livid Paleness spreads o'er all her Look;  
91 She sees, and trembles at th' approaching Ill,  
92 Just in the Jaws of Ruin, and Codille, <sup>Codille</sup> .  
93 And now, (as oft in some distemper'd State)  
94 On one nice Trick, <sup>Trick</sup> depends the gen'ral Fate,  
95 Lurk'd in her Hand, and mourn'd his captive Queen, <sup>Queen</sup> .  
96 He springs to Vengeance with an eager pace,  
97 And falls like Thunder on the prostrate *Ace* .  
98 The Nymph exulting fills with Shouts the Sky,  
99 The Walls, the Woods, and long Canals reply.

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100 Oh thoughtless Mortals! ever blind to Fate,  
101 Too soon dejected, and too soon elate!  
102 Sudden these Honours shall be snatch'd away,  
103 And curs'd for ever this Victorious Day.

104 For lo! the Board with Cups and Spoons is crown'd,  
105 The Berries, <sup>Berries</sup> crackle, and the Mill turns round.  
106 On shining Altars of Japan, <sup>Japan</sup> they raise  
107 The silver Lamp, and fiery Spirits blaze.  
108 From silver Spouts the grateful Liquors glide,

109 And *China* 's Earth receives the smoking Tyde.  
110 At once they gratify their Scent and Taste,  
111 While frequent Cups prolong the rich Repast.  
112 Strait hover round the Fair her Airy Band;  
113 Some, as she sip'd, the fuming Liquor fann'd,  
114 Some o'er her Lap their careful Plumes display'd,  
115 Trembling, and conscious of the rich Brocade.  
116 *Coffee* , (which makes the Politician wise,  
117 And see thro' all things with his half shut Eyes)

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118 Sent up in Vapours to the *Baron* 's Brain  
119 New Stratagems, the radiant Lock to gain.  
120 Ah cease rash Youth! desist e'er 'tis too late,  
121 Fear the just Gods, and think of *Scylla*, <sup>*Scylla*</sup> 's Fate!  
122 Chang'd to a Bird, and sent to flit in Air,  
123 She dearly pays for *Nisus*' injur'd Hair!

124 But when to Mischief Mortals bend their Mind,  
125 How soon fit Instruments of Ill they find?  
126 Just then, *Clarissa* drew with tempting Grace  
127 A two-edg'd Weapon from her shining Case;  
128 So Ladies in Romance assist their Knight,  
129 Present the Spear, and arm him for the Fight.  
130 He takes the Gift with rev'rence, and extends  
131 The little Engine on his Finger's Ends,  
132 This just behind *Belinda* 's Neck he spread,  
133 As o'er the fragrant Steams she bends her Head:  
134 Swift to the Lock a thousand Sprights repair,  
135 A thousand Wings, by turns, blow back the Hair,

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136 And thrice they twitch'd the Diamond in her Ear,  
137 Thrice she look'd back, and thrice the Foe drew near.  
138 Just in that instant, anxious *Ariel* sought  
139 The close Recesses of the Virgin's Thought;  
140 As on the *Nosegay*, <sup>*Nosegay*</sup> in her Breast reclin'd,  
141 He watch'd th' Ideas rising in her Mind,  
142 Sudden he view'd, in spite of all her Art,  
143 An Earthly Lover lurking at her Heart.  
144 Amaz'd, confus'd, he found his Pow'r expir'd,  
145 Resign'd to Fate, and with a Sigh retir'd.

146 The Peer now spreads the glitt'ring *Forfex*, <sup>*Forfex*</sup> wide,  
147 T'inclose the Lock; now joins it, to divide.

148 Ev'n then, before the fatal Engine clos'd,  
149 A wretched *Sylph* too fondly interpos'd;  
150 Fate urg'd the Sheers, and cut the *Sylph* in twain,  
151 (\*But Airy Substance soon unites again), <sup>Airy</sup>  
152 The meeting Points that sacred Hair dissever  
153 From the fair Head, for ever and for ever!

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154 Then flash'd the living Lightnings from her Eyes,  
155 And Screams of Horror rend th' affrighted Skies.  
156 Not louder Shrieks by Dames to Heav'n are cast,  
157 When Husbands or when Monkeys, <sup>Monkeys</sup> breath their last,  
158 Or when rich *China* Vessels, fal'n from high,  
159 In glittering Dust and painted Fragments lie!

160 Let Wreaths of Triumph, <sup>Wreaths</sup> now my Temples twine,  
161 (The Victor cry'd) the glorious Prize is mine!  
162 While Fish in Streams, or Birds delight in Air,  
163 Or in a Coach and Six the *British* Fair,  
164 As long as Atalantis, <sup>Atalantis</sup> shall be read,  
165 Or the small Pillow grace a Lady's Bed,  
166 While *Visits* shall be paid on solemn Days,  
167 When numerous Wax-lights in bright Order blaze,  
168 While Nymphs take Treats, or Assignations give,  
169 So long my Honour, Name, and Praise shall live!

170 What Time wou'd spare, from Steel receives its date,  
171 And Monuments, like Men, submit to Fate!

- 29 -

172 Steel did the Labour of the Gods destroy,  
173 And strike to Dust th' Imperial Tow'rs of *Troy* ;  
174 Steel cou'd the Works of mortal Pride confound,  
175 And hew Triumphal Arches to the Ground.  
176 What Wonder then, fair Nymph! thy Hairs shou'd feel  
177 The conqu'ring Force of unresisted Steel?

Figure 4, [Figure\\_4](#)



## THE RAPE *of the* LOCK.

### CANTO IV.

1 BUT anxious Cares the pensive Nymph opprest,  
2 And secret Passions labour'd in her Breast.  
3 Not youthful Kings in Battel seiz'd alive,  
4 Not scornful Virgins who their Charms survive,  
5 Not ardent Lovers robb'd of all their Bliss,  
6 Not ancient Ladies when refus'd a Kiss,  
7 Not Tyrants fierce that unrepenting die,  
8 Not *Cynthia* when her *Manteau* 's pinn'd awry,

- 31 -

9 E'er felt such Rage, Resentment and Despair,  
10 As Thou, sad Virgin! for thy ravish'd Hair.  
  
11 For, that sad moment, when the *Sylphs* withdrew,  
12 And *Ariel* weeping from *Belinda* flew,  
13 *Umbriel* , a dusky melancholy Spright,  
14 As ever fully'd the fair face of Light,  
15 Down to the Central Earth, his proper Scene,  
16 Repairs to search the gloomy Cave of *Spleen*,<sup>n165</sup> .  
  
17 Swift on his sooty Pinions flitts the *Gnome* ,  
18 And in a Vapour reach'd the dismal *Dome*,<sup>Dome</sup> .  
19 No cheerful Breeze this sullen Region knows,  
20 The dreaded *East* is all the Wind that blows.  
21 Here, in a Grotto, sheltred close from Air,  
22 And screen'd in Shades from Day's detested Glare,  
23 She sighs for ever on her pensive Bed,  
24 *Pain* at her side, and *Languor* at her Head.  
  
25 Two Handmaids wait the Throne: Alike in Place,  
26 But diff'ring far in Figure and in Face.

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27 Here stood *Ill-nature* like an *ancient Maid* ,  
28 Her wrinkled Form in *Black* and *White* array'd;  
29 With store of Pray'rs, for Mornings, Nights, and Noons,

30 Her Hand is fill'd; her Bosom with Lampoons, <sup>Lampoon</sup> .

31 There *Affectation* with a sickly Mien  
32 Shows in her Cheek the Roses of Eighteen,  
33 Practis'd to Lisp, and hang the Head aside,  
34 Faints into Airs, and languishes with Pride;  
35 On the rich Quilt sinks with becoming Woe,  
36 Wrapt in a Gown, for Sickness, and for Show.  
37 The Fair ones feel such Maladies as these,  
38 When each new Night-Dress gives a new Disease.

39 A constant *Vapour* o'er the Palace flies;  
40 Strange Phantoms rising as the Mists arise;  
41 Dreadful, as Hermit's Dreams in haunted Shades,  
42 Or bright as Visions of expiring Maids.  
43 Now glaring Fiends, and Snakes on rolling Spires, <sup>Spires</sup> ,  
44 Pale Spectres, gaping Tombs, and Purple Fires:

- 33 -

45 Now Lakes of liquid Gold, Elysian, <sup>Elysian</sup> Scenes,  
46 And Crystal Domes, and Angels in Machines.

47 Unnumber'd Throngs on ev'ry side are seen  
48 Of Bodies chang'd to various Forms by *Spleen* .  
49 Here living *Teapots* stand, one Arm held out,  
50 One bent; the Handle this, and that the Spout:  
51 A Pipkin, <sup>Pipkin</sup> there like *Homer* 's Tripod, <sup>Tripod</sup> walks;  
52 Here sighs a Jar, and there a Goose-pye, <sup>Goose-pye</sup> talks;  
53 Men prove with Child, as pow'rful Fancy works,  
54 And Maids turn'd Bottels, call aloud for Corks.

55 Safe past the *Gnome* thro' this fantastick Band,  
56 A Branch, <sup>Branch</sup> of healing *Spleenwort* in his hand.  
57 Then thus address the Pow'r--Hail wayward Queen;  
58 Who rule the Sex to Fifty from Fifteen,  
59 Parent of Vapors and of Female Wit,  
60 Who give th' *Hysteric* or *Poetic* Fit,  
61 On various Tempers act by various ways,  
62 Make some take Physick, others scribble Plays;

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63 Who cause the Proud their Visits to delay,  
64 And send the Godly in a Pett, <sup>Pett</sup> , to pray.  
65 A Nymph there is, that all thy Pow'r disdains,  
66 And thousands more in equal Mirth maintains.

67 But oh! if e'er thy *Gnome* could spoil a Grace,  
68 Or raise a Pimple on a beauteous Face,  
69 Like Citron-Waters, <sup>Citron-Waters</sup> Matron's Cheeks inflame,  
70 Or change Complexions at a losing Game;  
71 If e'er with airy Horns, <sup>Horns</sup> I planted Heads,  
72 Or rumbled Petticoats, or tumbled Beds,  
73 Or caus'd Suspicion when no Soul was rude,  
74 Or discompos'd the Head-dress of a Prude,  
75 Or e'er to costive, <sup>costive</sup> Lap-Dog gave Disease,  
76 Which not the Tears of brightest Eyes could ease:  
77 Hear me, and touch *Belinda* with Chagrin;  
78 That single Act gives half the World the Spleen.

79 The Goddess with a discontented Air  
80 Seems to reject him, tho' she grants his Pray'r.

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81 A wondrous Bag with both her Hands she binds,  
82 Like that where once *Ulysses*, <sup>Bag</sup> held the Winds;  
83 There she collects the Force of Female Lungs,  
84 Sighs, Sobs, and Passions, and the War of Tongues.  
85 A Vial next she fills with fainting Fears,  
86 Soft Sorrows, melting Grievs, and flowing Tears.  
87 The *Gnome* rejoicing bears her Gift away,  
88 Spreads his black Wings, and flowly mounts to Day.

89 Sunk in *Thalestris*', <sup>Thalestris</sup> Arms the Nymph he found,  
90 Her Eyes dejected and her Hair unbound.  
91 Full o'er their Heads the swelling Bag he rent,  
92 And all the Furies, <sup>Furies</sup> issued at the Vent.  
93 *Belinda* burns with more than mortal Ire, <sup>Ire</sup> ,  
94 And fierce *Thalestris* fans the rising Fire.  
95 O wretched Maid! she spread her hands, and cry'd,  
96 (While *Hampton* 's Ecchos wretched Maid reply'd)  
97 Was it for this you took such constant Care  
98 The *Bodkin*, *Comb* , and *Essence* to prepare;

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99 For this your Locks in Paper-Durance, <sup>paper</sup> bound,  
100 For this with tort'ring Irons wreath'd around?  
101 For this with Fillets, <sup>Fillets</sup> strain'd your tender Head,  
102 And bravely bore the double Loads of Lead, <sup>Lead</sup> ?  
103 Gods! shall the Ravisher display your Hair,  
104 While the Fops, <sup>Fops</sup> envy, and the Ladies stare!

105 *Honour* forbid! at whose unrival'd Shrine  
106 Ease, Pleasure, Virtue, All, our Sex resign.  
107 Methinks already I your Tears survey,  
108 Already hear the horrid things they say,  
109 Already see you a degraded Toast, <sup>Toast</sup> ,  
110 And all your Honour in a Whisper lost!  
111 How shall I, then, your helpless Fame defend?  
112 'Twill then be Infamy to seem your Friend!  
113 And shall this Prize, th' inestimable Prize,  
114 Expos'd thro' Crystal to the gazing Eyes,  
115 And heighten'd by the Diamond's circling Rays,  
116 On that Rapacious Hand for ever blaze?  
117 Sooner shall Grass in *Hide* -Park Circus, <sup>Circus</sup> grow,  
118 And Wits take Lodgings in the Sound of Bow, <sup>Bell</sup>

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119 Sooner let Earth, Air, Sea, to *Chaos* fall,  
120 Men, Monkeys, Lap-dogs, Parrots, perish all!

121 She said; then raging to *Sir Plume* repairs,  
122 And bids her *Beau* demand the precious Hairs:  
123 (*Sir Plume* , of Amber Snuff-box, <sup>Snuff-box</sup> justly vain,  
124 And the nice Conduct of a clouded Cane, <sup>Cane</sup> )  
125 With earnest Eyes, and round unthinking Face,  
126 He first the Snuff-box open'd, then the Case,  
127 And thus broke out--- "My Lord, why, what the Devil?  
128 "Z---ds!, <sup>Z---ds</sup> damn the Lock! 'fore Gad, you must be civil!  
129 "Plague on't! 'tis past a Jest---nay prithee, Pox, <sup>Pox</sup>!  
130 "Give her the Hair---he spoke, and rapp'd his Box.

131 It grieves me much (reply'd the Peer again)  
132 Who speaks so well shou'd ever speak in vain.  
133 But \* by this Lock, <sup>Lock</sup>, this sacred Lock I swear.  
134 (Which never more shall join its parted Hair,

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135 Which never more its Honours shall renew,  
136 Clipt from the lovely Head where once it grew)  
137 That while my Nostrils draw the vital Air,  
138 This Hand, which won it, shall for ever wear.  
139 He spoke, and speaking in proud Triumph spread  
140 The long-contended Honours of her Head.

141 But *Umbriel* , hateful *Gnome* ! forbears not so;  
142 He breaks the Vial whence the Sorrows flow.

143 Then see! the *Nymph* in beauteous Grief appears,  
144 Her Eyes half languishing, half drown'd in Tears;  
145 On her heav'd Bosom hung her drooping Head,  
146 Which, with a Sigh, she rais'd; and thus she said.

147 For ever curs'd be this detested Day,  
148 Which snatch'd my best, my fav'rite Curl away!  
149 Happy! ah ten times happy, had I been,  
150 If *Hampton-Court* these Eyes had never seen!  
151 Yet am not I the first mistaken Maid,  
152 By Love of *Courts* to num'rous Ills betray'd.

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153 Oh had I rather un-admir'd remain'd  
154 In some lone Isle, or distant *Northern* Land;  
155 Where the gilt *Chariot*, <sup>*Chariot*</sup> never mark'd the way,  
156 Where none learn *Ombre*, none e'er taste *Bohea*, <sup>*Bohea*</sup> !  
157 There kept my Charms conceal'd from mortal Eye,  
158 Like Roses that in Desarts bloom and die.  
159 What mov'd my Mind with youthful Lords to rome?  
160 O had I stay'd, and said my Pray'rs at home!  
161 'Twas this, the Morning *Omens* did foretel;  
162 Thrice from my trembling hand the *Patch-box*, <sup>*Patch-box*</sup> fell;  
163 The tott'ring *China*, <sup>*China*</sup> shook without a Wind,  
164 Nay, *Poll*, <sup>*Poll*</sup> sate mute, and *Shock* was most Unkind!  
165 A *Sylph* too warn'd me of the Threats of Fate,  
166 In mystic Visions, now believ'd too late!  
167 See the poor Remnants of this slighted Hair!  
168 My hands shall rend what ev'n thy own did spare.  
169 This, in two sable Ringlets taught to break,  
170 Once gave new Beauties to the snowie Neck.  
171 The Sister-Lock now sits uncouth, alone,  
172 And in its Fellow's Fate foresees its own;

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173 Uncurl'd it hangs, the fatal Sheers demands;  
174 And tempts once more thy sacrilegious Hands.  
175 Oh hadst thou, Cruel! been content to seize  
176 Hairs less in sight, or any Hairs but these!

Figure 5, [Figure\\_5](#)

## THE RAPE *of the* LOCK.

### CANTO V.

1 SHE said: the pitying Audience melt in Tears,  
2 But *Fate* and *Jove*, *Jove* had stopp'd the *Baron* 's Ears, <sup>Ears</sup> .  
3 In vain *Thalestris* with Reproach assails,  
4 For who can move when fair *Belinda* fails?  
5 Not half to fixt the *Trojan* cou'd remain,  
6 While *Anna* begg'd and *Dido*, *Dido* rag'd in vain.  
7 To Arms, to Arms! the bold *Thalestris* cries,  
8 And swift as Lightning to the Combate flies.

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9 All side in Parties, and begin th' Attack;  
10 Fans clap, Silks ruffle, and tough Whalebones, <sup>Whalebones</sup> crack;  
11 Heroes and Heroins Shouts confus'dly rise,  
12 And base, and treble Voices strike the Skies.  
13 No common Weapons in their Hands are found,  
14 Like Gods they fight, nor dread a mortal Wound.  
  
15 \* So when bold *Homer* makes the Gods engage, <sup>Gods</sup> ,  
16 And heav'nly Breasts with human Passions rage;  
17 'Gainst *Pallas*, <sup>Pallas</sup> , *Mars*, <sup>Mars</sup> ; *Latona*, <sup>Latona</sup> , *Hermes*, <sup>Hermes</sup> , Arms;  
18 And all *Olympus* rings with loud Alarms.  
19 *Jove* 's Thunder roars, Heav'n trembles all around;  
20 Blue *Neptune* storms, the bellowing Deeps resound;  
21 *Earth* shakes her nodding Tow'rs, the Ground gives way;  
22 And the pale Ghosts start at the Flash of Day!

23 Triumphant *Umbriel* on a Sconce's, <sup>Sconce</sup> Height  
24 Clapt his glad Wings, and sate to view the Fight, <sup>sate</sup> ,  
25 Propt on their Bodkin Spears the Sprights survey  
26 The growing Combat, or assist the Fray.

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27 While thro' the Press enrag'd *Thalestries* flies,  
28 And scatters Deaths around from both her Eyes,

29 A Beau, <sup>Beau</sup> and Witling, <sup>Witling</sup> perish'd in the Throng,  
30 One dy'd in Metaphor , and one in Song .  
31 O cruel Nymph! a living Death I bear ,  
32 Cry'd Dapperwit, <sup>Dapperwit</sup> , and sunk beside his Chair.  
33 A mournful Glance Sir Fopling, <sup>Fopling</sup> upwards cast,  
34 \* Those Eyes are made so killing, <sup>Camilla\_</sup> ---was his last:  
35 Thus on Meander, <sup>Meander</sup> 's flow'ry Margin lies  
36 Th' expiring Swan, and as he sings he dies.

37 As bold Sir Plume, <sup>Plume</sup> had drawn Clarissa down,  
38 Chloe stept in, and kill'd him with a Frown;  
39 She smil'd to see the doughty, <sup>doughty</sup> Hero slain,  
40 But at her Smile, the Beau reviv'd again.

41 + Now Jove, <sup>scales</sup> suspends his golden Scales in Air,  
42 Weighs the Mens Wits against the Lady's Hair;

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43 The doubtful Beam long nods from side to side;  
44 At length the Wits mount up, the Hairs subside, <sup>subside</sup> .

45 See fierce Belinda on the Baron flies,  
46 With more than usual Lightning in her Eyes;  
47 Nor fear'd the Chief th' unequal Fight to try,  
48 Who sought no more than on his Foe to die, <sup>die</sup> .  
49 But this bold Lord, with manly Strength indu'd,  
50 She with one Finger and a Thumb subdu'd,  
51 Just where the Breath of Life his Nostrils drew,  
52 A Charge of Snuff, <sup>Snuff</sup> the wily Virgin threw;  
53 The Gnomes direct, to ev'ry Atome, <sup>Atom</sup> just,  
54 The pungent Grains of titillating Dust.  
55 Sudden, with starting Tears each Eye o'erflows,  
56 And the high Dome re-ecchoes to his Nose.

57 Now meet thy Fate, th' incens'd Virago, <sup>Virago</sup> cry'd,  
58 And drew a deadly Bodkin from her Side.  
59 (\*The same, his ancient Personage, <sup>n229</sup> to deck,  
60 Her great great Grandsire wore about his Neck

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61 In three Seal-Rings, <sup>seal-ring</sup> ; which after melted down,  
62 Form'd a vast Buckle for his Widow's Gown:  
63 Her infant Grandame's, <sup>Grandame</sup> Whistle next it grew,



64 The *Bells* she gingled, and the *Whistle* blew;  
65 Then in a *Bodkin* grac'd her Mother's Hairs,  
66 Which long she wore, and now *Belinda* wears.)

67 Boast not my Fall (he cry'd) insulting Foe!  
68 Thou by some other shalt be laid as low.  
69 Nor think, to die dejects my lofty Mind;  
70 All that I dread, is leaving you behind!  
71 Rather than so, ah let me still survive,  
72 And burn in *Cupid*'s Flames,---but burn alive.

73 *Restore the Lock* ! she cries; and all around  
74 *Restore the Lock* ! the vaulted Roofs rebound.  
75 Not fierce *Othello*, *Othello* in so loud a Strain  
76 Roar'd for the Handkerchief that caus'd his Pain.  
77 But see how oft Ambitious Aims are cross'd,  
78 And Chiefs contend 'till all the Prize is lost!

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79 The Lock, obtain'd with Guilt, and kept with Pain,  
80 In ev'ry place is sought, but sought in vain:  
81 With such a Prize no Mortal must be blest,  
82 So Heav'n decrees! with Heav'n who can contest?

83 Some thought it mounted to the Lunar Sphere,  
84 \* Since all things lost on Earth, are treasur'd there.  
85 There Heroe's Wits are kept in pondrous Vases,  
86 And Beau's in *Snuff-boxes* and *Tweezer-Cases* .  
87 There broken Vows, and Death-bed Alms, *Alms* are found,  
88 And Lovers Hearts with Ends of Riband, *Riband* bound;  
89 The Courtiers Promises, and Sick Man's Pray'rs,  
90 The Smiles of Harlots, and the Tears of Heirs,  
91 Cages for Gnats, and Chains to Yoak a Flea;  
92 Dry'd Butterflies, and Tomes of Casuistry, *Casuistry* .

93 But trust the Muse---she saw it upward rise,  
94 Tho' mark'd by none but quick Poetic Eyes:, *Poetic*  
95 (So *Rome*'s great Founder, *Rome*  
96 To *Proculus* alone confess'd in view.)

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97 A sudden Star, it shot thro' liquid Air,  
98 And drew behind a radiant *Trail of Hair* .  
99 Not *Berenice*, *Berenice*'s Locks first rose so bright,  
100 The Skies bespangling with dishevel'd Light.

101 The *Sylphs* behold it kindling as it flies,  
102 And pleas'd pursue its Progress thro' the Skies.

103 This the *Beau-monde*, *Beau-monde* shall from the *Mall*, *Mall* survey,  
104 And hail with Musick its propitious Ray.  
105 This, the blest Lover shall for *Venus* take,  
106 And send up Vows from *Rosamonda*, *Rosamonda* 's Lake.  
107 This *Partridge*, *Partridge* soon shall view in cloudless Skies,  
108 When next he looks thro' *Galilaeo* 's *Eyes*, *Eyes* ;  
109 And hence th' Egregious Wizard shall foredoom  
110 The Fate of *Louis*, *Louis* , and the Fall of *Rome* .

111 Then cease, bright Nymph! to mourn the ravish'd Hair  
112 Which adds new Glory to the shining Sphere!  
113 Not all the Tresses that fair Head can boast  
114 Shall draw such Envy as the Lock you lost.

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115 For, after all the Murders of your Eye,  
116 When, after Millions slain, your self shall die;  
117 When those fair Suns shall sett, as sett they must,  
118 And all those Tresses shall be laid in Dust;  
119 *This Lock* , the *Muse*, *Muse* shall consecrate to Fame,  
120 And mid'st the Stars inscribe *Belinda* 's Name!  
121 *FINIS* .

## Footnotes

frontispiece The frontispiece was designed by Louis du Guernier (1677-1716) a well-known illustrator of the period; he also designed the images that appear before each of the five cantos. They were engraved by Claude du Bosc (1682-1745?); both men had been born in France but moved to London, probably in pursuit of the good opportunities for skilled engravers in the London book trade, and worked together on a number of projects for London patrons and booksellers in these years. Illustrations as detailed as these were very time-consuming and therefore expensive to produce, and the presence of six custom-engraved images was a sign that Pope and his publisher Bernard Lintot were trying to create a particularly impressive and beautiful object. Pope, who was a talented amateur painter in his own right, almost certainly had a role in designing the images, although we do not know exactly how he participated. The frontispiece is a composite of major events in the poem to follow. The "sylphs," spirits of vanity and erotic desire, float around Belinda, the heroine of the poem, as she puts on her makeup; they also drop playing cards, alluding to the card game in Canto III, and point to the shooting star that ascends at the end of Canto V. In the front lower right of the image, a satyr, with pointed ears and cloven hoofs, holds the kind of mask that women in the period sometimes wore in public; like many authors in the period, Pope is playing on the homophone between "satyr," the sexually-aggressive half-human, half-animals of Greek mythology, and "satire," the literary form of which "The Rape of the Lock" is an example. Behind the characters is the facade of Hampton Court Palace, the royal home down the Thames from London where much of the action of the poem takes place. Pope clearly intended the images and the poem to be read together, a feature that is not possible in most modern reproductions of the poem, which rely on the poetic text alone.

- [JOB]

title Alexander Pope's "The Rape of the Lock" is the most famous poem written in English in the eighteenth century. Chances are, if a modern reader knows only one poem from the period, this is the one. Which is a strange thing. The poem's subject matter is unusual, even unique: the cutting off of a lock of hair from the head of a young woman and the aftermath of that event. And the poem is written in a form, the heroic couplet, that is rarely used today. But "The Rape of the Lock" has endured because it so fully captured, while also satirizing, an image of a particular world, a world of aristocratic ease, but also great anxiety. And it is also an astonishing accomplishment simply as a poem. No poet of the eighteenth century used the heroic couplet more deftly than Alexander Pope (depicted here in a contemporary painting by Charles Jervis; National Portrait Gallery, London), and perhaps nowhere in his career did he craft couplets and the larger units he built from them—verse paragraphs, cantos, the entire poem itself—with greater verve and delicacy.

The poem is based on a true story. At a party one day in 1710 or 1711, Robert Petre, a young man from an aristocratic family, crept up behind Arabella Fermor, a young woman also from a prosperous household, and cut off a lock of her hair. Petre may have thought of this as an amusing, or even a flirtatious prank, but she was angry, and the two families started snubbing and sniping at each other. Years later, Pope described what happened next: "The stealing of Miss Belle Fermor's hair was taken too seriously, and caused an estrangement between the two families, though they had lived long in great friendship before. A common acquaintance and well-wisher to both desired me to write a poem to make a jest of it, and laugh them together

again. It was in this view that I wrote my Rape of the Lock, which was well received and had its effect in the two families.” The “common acquaintance” was John Caryll, a friend of Pope’s who was also close to both the Fermor and Petre families. Like all of them, Caryll was also a Catholic who faced persecution in an era when the government of Britain continued to suspect that Catholics were potentially a subversive force whose loyalties to the Protestant monarchy could not be assured. And sometimes with reason; Caryll was a Jacobite, a supporter of the exiled Pretender, the Stuart James III, then living in exile in France. James continued to claim that he was the true king of Britain, and there were Jacobites who called for the restoration of the Stuart monarchy until the movement was finally defeated at the Battle of Culloden in Scotland in 1745. Caryll never joined in any of the conspiracies that took place in the early part of the century to restore the Stuart monarchy, but he did secretly give financial support to a Catholic church in his neighborhood, which was itself illegal. Caryll may have felt that Catholics in Britain had enough problems without feuding among themselves. Pope, who was at this point starting work on a massive translation of Homer’s poem *The Iliad*, seems quickly to have seen the possibility of re-imagining the incident in epic terms, creating what has been called a “mock epic” for the way in which it uses the conventions of epic poetry to describe what is by comparison a trivial event.

Pope’s memory of the happy outcome of the poem was, however, a little rose colored from time. Pope wrote the first version of "The Rape of the Lock" quickly—he said it took two weeks; he may have been exaggerating—and it then circulated among the families and their friends in manuscript for a while. That version of the poem, which was much shorter than the one that has ultimately been most read, was published anonymously in 1712, and at this point things got more complicated. As more and more people read the poem now that it was in print, the double entendres and erotic implications of Pope’s work became clearer, and Arabella Fermor—who had initially agreed with letting the poem be printed—was embarrassed as friends started pointing out to her where the dirty jokes were. Sir Charles Brown, the original for the “Sir Plume” of the poem, was also angry at the way he was portrayed (as an idiot). Pope went back to work, and over the course of the next couple of years, added the elaborate “machinery” of the poem, the sylphs and fairies that hover around the action, embedding the original story in a framework of fantasy that deflects some of the agency of the central characters. (Robert Petre’s response to the publication of the first version of the poem is, by the way, unrecorded. Petre married Catherine Walsmeley in 1712, but he died only a few months later from smallpox.) Pope included a letter of dedication to Arabella Fermor that aimed to defuse some of her anger. That new edition, handsomely printed with engravings accompanying each canto, was published as a separate volume in 1714, and immediately became a best-seller, selling around 3,000 copies in four days, which even now would be an extraordinary total for any book, much less a poem in rhyming couplets. It has been admired, critiqued, and argued with ever since.

- [JOB]

Heroi- Pope is the inventor of this term, which first appeared here at the opening of *The Rape of the Comical Lock*. He is indicating that he will emulate such epics as Homer's *Iliad* or Milton's *Paradise Lost*, but in a comic register.

- [JOB]

nomen The full quote, which comes from Book VIII of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, should read, "Cirise et, a tonso est hoc nomen adepta capillo": "She acquired the name from the cutting of the hair."

Ovid's story, first published in 8 CE, goes like this. Nisus was the King of Alcatous and he had a lock of purple hair on his crown that (somehow) guaranteed the safety of his kingdom. Scylla, his daughter, fell in love with King Minos, who was conquering the kingdom, and in order to gain his favor, Scylla cut off the lock of her father's hair. But, disgusted with her disloyalty, Minos left by ship. As Scylla swam after Minos, King Nisos, having been transformed into a sea eagle, attempted to drown her. Instead of drowning, Scylla was turned to a sea bird and called Ciris, (i.e. "cutter"), being named after the lock that she cut off. See Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, translated by Anthony S. Kline, <http://ovid.lib.virginia.edu/trans/Metamorph8.htm>  
- [UVAstudstaff]

Arabella Arabella Fermor (1696-1737; image credit: Victoria and Albert Museum) was from a prominent Catholic family. She came to public attention in an unwelcome way when Robert Petre, from another prominent Catholic family, surreptitiously cut off a lock of her hair at a party. He may have thought it was a good prank, but she was (justifiably) angry, and the Fermor and Petre families (who may have been in negotiations to marry the two), became estranged. John Caryll, a friend of Pope's who was also Robert Petre's guardian, asked Pope to write about the incident in such a way as to make a joke of it and smooth relations. *The Rape of the Lock* is Pope's effort to heal the breach. He did not, however, ask Arabella Fermor for her approval before publishing the first version of the poem in 1712, and she was initially unhappy at the poem's double-entendre and the way that it seemed to compare her situation to raped heroines of antiquity like Helen of Troy or Lucrece. This letter, published with the much-enlarged 1714 edition of the poem, can be read in part as Pope's attempt to mollify her.  
- [JOB]

dedicate Pope is probably referring to the Latin epigraph that appeared with the first edition of the poem: "Nolueram, Belinda, tuos violare capillos, / Sed juvat hoc precibus me tribuisse tuis," by the Roman poet Martial, in his *Epigrams* xii, 84, translates as, "I was loathe, Belinda, to violate your locks, but I am pleased to have granted that much to your prayers." Pope is insinuating that Arabella Fermor asked for the poem to be written. This was not the case.

machinery Refers to the fairy-like creatures in the poem: the sylphs, the nymphs, the gnomes, the salamanders. As he explains in the next line, they are the portrayals of what we would call in the real world, deities, angels or demons.

Rosicrucian The Rosicrucians were an occult movement that emerged in the early seventeenth century in Europe. It was an odd combination of Christian mysticism and other kinds of esoteric teaching, such as the Kabbala, which comes out of the Jewish tradition. There were several Rosicrucian manifestos that laid out theories of mystical knowledge, and the movement had adherents and drew curious thinkers to it throughout Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Pope does not seem to have been a serious adherent, but is here using some of the supernatural apparatus associated with Rosicrucianism to frame his story.

Lady It seems unlikely that Pope is aware how unctuous and condescending he sounds here; or perhaps he is aware and does not mind. It's hard to say with Pope.

Gabalais *The Count of Gabalis* was written by Nicolas-Pierre-Henri de Montfaucon de Villars, a French cleric, and published in 1670. It is an odd book. In it, an anonymous narrator encounters the Comte de Gabalis, who teaches the narrator about the occult, including various beliefs associated with the Rosicrucians. The Count introduces such things as the Sylphs of the Air, the Undines of the Water, the Gnomes of the Earth and the Salamanders of Fire. It is entirely possible that de

Villars is satirizing occult sciences, which had a vogue in seventeenth century Europe, as absurd or incompatible with orthodox religion. But it is hard to be sure; this may be an example of a satire that does not make its intentions clear enough.

novel To an English reader of 1714, the word "novel" still sounded like a French import, and it would have denoted a short, perhaps slightly scandalous, love story. The novel was not understood to be a serious genre, a form of literature. Any reading of a novel for more than entertainment is a "mistake."

Figure\_1

caryll John Caryll, the mutual friend of Pope and the two families involved in the dispute; he seems to have attempted to mediate between them, in part suggesting that Pope write this poem.

Belinda The heroine of the poem, inspired by Arabella Fermor.

Sol Sol is Latin for the Sun.

Shock Belinda's lapdog.

chocolate Chocolate, served in this period only as a drink, was enormously popular, especially among those who could afford it as well as the sugar to cut the bitterness.

slipper Belinda stomps her slippared foot on the ground to call for her maid.

watches Striking watches indicate the hour and quarter-hour by means of hammers hitting bells or gongs. The watch rang, announcing that it was 10 o'clock.

sylph sylphs here are imagined as feminine spirits that stand guard over young women

Ariel Ariel, Belinda's guardian Sylph, created the dream that she was having.

beau a young man dressed up for the Queen's birthday, one of highlights of the social calendar in this period.

Token Folklore that says that fairies and elves left silver tokens in rings of dark coarse grass that were supposed to be where fairies danced. The tokens were supposedly left for humans who were favored by fairies. Pat Rogers attributes the use to Jonathan Swift's *Dryades: Or, the Nymphs Prophecy*, although that probably comes from ancient folklore as well. Rogers, Pat. "Faery Lore and The Rape of the Lock." *Essays on Pope*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1993. Print.

militia fairy creatures, imagined here as soldiers

wing The creatures are always present (on the wing meaning in flight) in the places where London's society is found.

box A 'box' in a theatre or opera-house.

ring Ring - Charles I created a circular track called the Ring in Hyde Park where members of the royal court could drive their carriages. The park was opened to the public in 1637 and it soon became a fashionable place to visit.

equipage Here it refers to a carriage with horses and attendants, but can also just mean carriage alone.

chair two servants carrying a woman in a sedan chair

mold The fairy creatures used to be beautiful women like Belinda.

transition Possibly death, or some (magical) means by which they are transformed from their human selves in to the fairy creatures.

cards After the "transition" spoken of earlier, a former coquette now turned into a sylph still can see and look at the cards although she does not play.

Ombre A trick-taking card game for three people using forty cards. A game of ombre is played later on and is described in detail in Canto III. It is almost certainly no coincidence that the word ombre is archaic Spanish for "man"; Belinda is literally and figuratively playing the game of man. "ombre,

sprights Different kinds of women became transformed into different kinds of spirits. The fiery boisterous women became Salamanders. The mild demure women became Nymphs. The prudish women became Gnomes. The flirty girlish women became Sylphs.

honour That is, women's chastity only seems to be governed by honour; it is really the intervention of the sylphs that sustains chastity.

florio Not a reference to any specific men. Florio, along with Damon, were common names used in early epic poetry to refer to men in general, the way we use, Tom, Dick, and Harry, today. "The aristocratic young men of the time were, like the ladies, lacking in any serious purpose or morality. Florio and Damon are representatives of those gallants and fops who vie with one another to capture the hearts of the ladies.

main the open sea

billet-doux a love letter

toilet a small dressing table

glass mirror

altar Belinda's "toilet" is likened to an "altar" at which Belinda and her maid are now left to worship the priestess, or Belinda's "heav'nly image" as mentioned two lines above this line. By this point, it has become clear that the vanity nurtured by the Gnomes has set in, leaving the mortal human beings to worship a new priestess, Belinda's reflection.

world During the 18th century, Britain became the dominant empire among European trading empires as it became the first western nation to industrialize. During this time, merchants began trading with both North America and the West Indies, where colonies had been established. This granted Britain access to parts of the world and their amenities that had previously been unbeknownst to them. The ability to interact with far-off countries such as India and Arabia yielded new luxuries and a new understanding of the world outside of Europe. The ability for Belinda to have access to these luxuries further exemplifies her wealth.

- spoil "Glitt'ring spoil" refers directly to the spoils of war, "valuables seized by violence, especially in war," most likely as a result of the colonization of these foreign lands in pursuit of broadening trade opportunities.
- casket a. A small box or chest for jewels, letters, or other things of value, itself often of valuable material and richly ornamented.
- gems Since before recorded history, India has been a leading source for precious gems, producing some of the finest gemstones.
- Arabia Refers to scented oils or perfumes from the Arabian Peninsula or the middle east. as it is now known. They came in elaborate and ornate containers and were very expensive.
- tortoise Hair combs made from tortoise shell and ivory from elephant tusks.
- patches "a small disk of black silk attached to the face, especially as worn by women in the 17th and 18th centuries for adornment" (OED) This is essentially an artificial beauty mark.
- awful
- arms Arms: (n.) weapons With the use of militaristic diction as seen in "puts in all its Arms", Pope has Belinda preparing for battle just as Achilles prepared for the Trojan War in Homer's *Iliad*.
- Betty her maid.
- Figure\_2
- etherial Of or relating to heaven, God, or the gods; heavenly, celestial. *Oxford English Dictionary*
- rival that is, Belinda
- nymphs The other women traveling with her (here not the nymphs who are the protectors of her chastity).
- cross The cross here is stripped of its Christian meaning; it is Belinda who people are now worshipping
- nymph Belinda
- ivory In likening Belinda's neck to ivory, imported from Africa, the narrator again associates her beauty with the products of emergent colonialism and global commerce.
- sprindgesa snare used for bird-catching
- finney Finny, adj., "Provided with or having fins; finned." The "Finny Prey" refers to fish, which are also caught with a hair-like line, reiterating the comparison of beauty as a deadly trap. "finny, adj.1." *Oxford English Dictionary*
- tresses " A plait or braid of the hair of the head, usually of a woman. A long lock of hair (esp. that of a woman), without any sense of its being plaited or braided; mostly in pl. tresses." "tress, n." *Oxford English Dictionary*
- success The "Success" of a "Lover's Toil" in this era would be marriage.



Phaebus Variant spelling of Phoebus, a common name for Apollo, god of the sun. *Oxford English Dictionary*

sword-knot "n. a ribbon or tassel tied to the hilt of a sword (originating from the thong or lace with which the hilt was fastened to the wrist, but later used chiefly as a mere ornament or badge)." "sword-knot, n." *Oxford English Dictionary*

busk "A strip of wood, whalebone, steel, or other rigid material attached vertically to the front section of a corset so as to stiffen and support it." "busk, n.3." *Oxford English Dictionary*

bilet-doux love letters

prostrate "Of a person: lying with the face to the ground, in token of submission or humility, as in adoration, worship, or supplication; (hence more generally) lying stretched out on the ground, typically with the face downwards. Freq. in predicative or quasi-adverbial use, as in to fall prostrate, to lie prostrate, etc." *Oxford English Dictionary*

Prize "The Prize" refers to Belinda's lock of hair.

Ear "Gave Ear" means that they (the ambiguous supernatural entities) listened to the Baron.

Vessel The "painted Vessel" refers to the boat gliding across the river Thames, carrying Belinda to Hampton Court.

zephyrs "The west wind, esp. as personified, or the god of the west wind." *Oxford English Dictionary*

Denizens That is, the other sylphs.

lucid "Bright, shining, luminous, resplendent." *Oxford English Dictionary*

Tincture "A colouring matter, dye, pigment; spec. a dye used as a cosmetic." *Oxford English Dictionary*

Dies Variant spelling of "dyes."

Pinions "A bird's wing; esp. (chiefly poet. and rhetorical) the wing of a bird in flight. Also: the terminal segment of a bird's wing, bearing the primary flight feathers." *Oxford English Dictionary* .

Azure bright blue

Chief That is, Ariel, who goes on to give a speech to the other spirits.

orbs Celestial bodies not in a regular orbit, such as comets.

Bow Rainbow

glebe Soil

Fair Young women, such as Belinda

Powder Face-powder

vernal "Of, pertaining or belonging to, the springtime; appropriate to the spring; spring-like: Of weather, scenery, etc." *Oxford English Dictionary*

Flounce "An ornamental appendage to the skirt of a lady's dress, consisting of a strip gathered and sewed on by its upper edge around the skirt, and left hanging and waving." *Oxford English Dictionary*

Furbelow Variant spelling of "furbelow: "A piece of stuff pleated and puckered on a gown or petticoat; a flounce; the pleated border of a petticoat or gown." *Oxford English Dictionary* .

brightest That is, Belinda.

wrapt "Concealed, covered, hidden." "wrapped, adj." *Oxford English Dictionary*

Diana "An ancient Roman female divinity, the moon-goddess, patroness of virginity and of hunting." *Oxford English Dictionary* "Diana's" law would be the law of chastity or virginity, so to break the law would be to have pre-marital sex.

Brocade "A textile fabric woven with a pattern of raised figures, originally in gold or silver." *Oxford English Dictionary*

Zephyrettes the nymphs' names are invented, each derived from a word related to the object entrusted to it. "Zephyretta," from "zypher" has care of the breeze-producing fan.

Brillante "Brillante," from 'brilliant', is entrusted with Belinda's shining earrings.

Momentilla "Momentilla" is the nymph in charge of the pocket-watch.

Crispissa "Crispissa," from "crisp," has charge of the two precise curls of hair.

Ribs Whalebone was used to form the ribs in women's corsets and skirts.

stopt "That is, stopped or blocked.

Vials "A vessel of a small or moderate size used for holding liquids; in later use spec., a small glass bottle" *Oxford English Dictionary*

bodkin "A needle-like instrument with a blunt knobbed point, having a large (as well as a small) eye, for drawing tape or cord through a hem, loops, etc." *Oxford English Dictionary* .

pomatum "An ointment for the skin or hair; = pomade" "pomatum, n." *Oxford English Dictionary*

styptick A "styptic" is a kind of medicine used to contract organic tissue (for example, to stop a cut bleeding), frequently made out of "alum," a type of mineral salt. *Oxford English Dictionary*

Ixion "Ixion, in Greek legend, murdered his father-in-law and could find no one to purify him until Zeus did so. Ixion abused his pardon by trying to seduce Zeus's wife, Hera. Zeus, to punish him, bound him on a fiery wheel, which rolled unceasingly through the air or, according to the more

common tradition, in the underworld." "Ixion | Greek Mythology." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*

Mill Compares being trapped in the grinder of a coffee mill to the mythological figure Ixion, who was fixed to a fire wheel spinning in the air of the underworld forever.

Sea This is referring to the hot coffee in the grinder/pot.

He That is, Ariel, the leader of the spirits.

Nymph That is, Belinda.

thrid That is, the spirits "threaded" her hair.

Figure\_3

meads That is, meadows.

Hampton Hampton Court Palace, a royal palace on the banks of the Thames River, about twelve miles from central London. The palace was originally built by Cardinal Wolsey starting in 1514. He gave it to Henry VIII as a way of trying to get back in Henry's good graces, but it did not work; Wolsey was executed anyway for failing to get Henry the divorce he wanted. Henry built Hampton Court into an enormous royal palace. In the late 1600s, the great architect Christopher Wren built an enormous extension for William III. They tore down part of the earlier palace and added on in what was then the modern style, creating a large Baroque palace designed to emulate the Palace of Versailles in France, at that time the grandest royal palace in Europe. In the early part of the eighteenth century, when this poem takes place, Hampton Court was the most important royal palace in England, where the monarch usually lived, and courtiers like Belinda and the Baron would have flocked there to make their presence known at court. *Image: Hampton Court Palace by Andreas Tille, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons*

Anne Queen Anne (1665-1714), the last Stuart monarch of Great Britain. She took the throne upon the death of her father, William III in 1702. She died the year that the poem was published. *[Image: Queen Anne, painted by Michael Dahl, around 1705 (National Portrait Gallery)].*

ombre Ombre was a popular three-player card game similar to the modern game of Bridge. Each game can have nine rounds ("tricks"). The most straightforward way to win is by taking five tricks (drawing the highest-ranked card in each round), after which the game ends. The game begins with an auction to decide the trump suit. The highest-bidding player is the "ombre" (from the Spanish "hombre" for "man"), and the other two play against her while trying to ensure their individual successes. The penalty enacted on each of the two non-ombres is greater if the ombre wins than if the other non-ombre wins. Similarly, the ombre will lose more if either of the two gains five tricks than if no one has won five at the end of nine rounds. The game was popular among the aristocratic class throughout Europe. The joke throughout is that Belinda is in effect playing the game of "man," both on the card table and in life. The game as it plays out over the next section of the poem is an entirely plausible game, with each move following according to the actual rules of ombre. Belinda, for example, wins the starting auction and becomes the "ombre" for duration of this game. See Alban George Henry Gibbs, *The Game of Ombre* . London:

privately printed, 1874, 3rd edition (expanded) 1902, upon which we rely in tracing the course of the game.

**matadore** The matadores (spadillio, manillio, and basto) are the three highest-ranking cards in the trump suit. The matadore would be the ace of spades; the manillio card is the lowest ranking card in the trump suit (the suit would vary from game to game, identified by the winner of the auction at the start), and the basto is the ace of clubs. Belinda controls all three.

**Velvet** ~~That~~ is, the cloth covering the three-sided card table on which Belinda and the two men are playing the game. The Kings, Queens, Jacks, and other cards are imagined as being arranged like soldiers on a battlefield

**Force** Belinda's starting hand is made up of spadillio, manillio, basto: the king of spades, the king and queen of hearts, and the 5 and 4 of diamonds. The Baron begins the game with the king of clubs, the jack, 7, 5, and 3 of spades (the trump suit), the king, queen, and jack of diamonds, and the ace of hearts. Belinda and the Baron both have extremely strong hands, while the third character has no strong cards.

**Trumps** Having won the "auction" at the start of the game by outbidding the other two players, Belinda chooses the trump suit.

**Spade** Belinda quickly wins the first five rounds or "tricks" of the game by playing her cards skilfully.

**Baron** In the following three stanzas, the Baron begins to threaten Belinda's winning streak. He wins tricks five through eight, tying their scores. His first move is with the Queen of Spades.

**Globe** The King of Clubs is often pictured holding an orb, or globe.

**Codille** A "codille" would be a loss at the game, if the Baron were to win the final trick. Belinda must either win trick nine, or hope that the third player does, in order to avoid losing to the Baron.

**Trick** A trick is a round. As explained above, a game consists of nine tricks; whoever takes five wins the game. At this point, with Belinda and the Baron tied with four tricks each, the game is down to the final round.

**Queen** The Baron mourns that he has already played a Queen that could win the round. He plays an Ace; Belinda counters with a King (which in ombre outranks an Ace) and wins final trick and thus the game.

**Berries** Coffee beans, which are being ground in a mill to make fresh coffee.

**Japan** "Japan" was a style of wooden furniture, highly polished and often decorated in a vaguely Asian style; hence the name. Japan-style furniture was expensive, and therefore fashionable among wealthy people in Europe at this time.

**Scylla** Nisus, king of Megara, was at war against Crete, but it was decreed by fate that his kingdom would be safe as long as a purple lock of hair remained on his head. His daughter Scylla fell in love with the king of Crete, Minos, and cut off her father's purple lock to give to him. Minos rejected the gift, and both Nisus and Scylla turned into birds.

**Nosegay** A nosegay is a small flower bouquet, worn like a corsage.

**Forfex** Latin for scissors.

**Airy** A reference to John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, where Satan is injured in the war in heaven when a sword "Passed through him, but th' Ethereal substance closed/ Not long divisible."

Monkeys In eighteenth-century England, the wealthy kept many kinds of pets, including monkeys. The lower classes sometimes kept performing monkeys, which could earn them extra money.

Wreaths In ancient Greece, laurel wreaths were worn as a symbol of victory or honor.

Atalantis *Secret Memoirs and Manners of Several Persons of Quality, of Both Sexes, from the New Atalantis, an Island in the Mediterranean* , published in 1709, was a scandalous but very popular work of fiction by Delarivier Manley. With its salacious details of politicians' private lives, the story satirizes the corruption of the aristocracy.

Figure\_4

n165 According to the humours theory of human psychology, which held sway from the middle ages into the early modern period, a person's temperament was set by the mixture of various fluids--humours--in the body. The spleen was thought to produce yellow bile, an excess of which would lead to depression. So by analogy "the spleen" became shorthand for a state of depression, which Belinda is experiencing in the wake of the theft of her lock of hair. Umbriel's journey through the Cave of Spleen is analogous to the journeys, fraught with many perils, which Aeneas (in Vergil's *Aeneid* ) and Odysseus (Homer's *Odyssey* ) made to the underworld in those epics.

Dome That is, a domed building.

Lampoon "Lamponing" in seventeenth and eighteenth century England was a scathing form of satire that attacked a specific person's appearance. It originates from the French word "lampons," which means "let's drink," and Alexander Pope himself lampooned a fellow writer, Joseph Addison, in his work "An Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot." The form fell into disuse soon after this time but the term "lampoon" still refers to an insult directed at a specific person or institution. Werlock, Abby H. P. *The Facts on File Companion to the American Short Story* . 2nd ed. New York NY: Facts On File, 2010. Print.

Spires spirals

Elysian A reference to Elysium/Elysian Fields/Elysian Plain of classical mythology, where mortals favored by the gods for their rectitude were sent to dwell after they had departed from the land of the living. Elysium was originally the exclusive province of the heroes who had acquired immortality from the gods Elysian in the context of this passage means like "paradise."

Pipkin\_ According to Samuel Johnson's 1755 *A pipkin is "A small earthen boiler."*

Tripod The automatons (or "tripods"), twenty in all, fashioned with rivets and gold wheels by the lame god Vulcan in his workshop so that they might be dispatched whenever the gods congregated at Mt. Olympus, returning to the workshop afterwards to be at the beck and call of Vulcan. From Book XVIII of Homer's *Iliad*.

Goose-  
pye Gooseberry pie

Branch The branch of spleenwort, a humble fern, is a parodic reference to the golden bough bore by Aeneas during his journey, accompanied by the Cumaean Sibyl, through the underworld. Aeneas, having been guided by a pair of doves to a place in a forest where the golden bough had been long obscured from the sight of man, had plucked the golden bough in order to obtain safe

passage through the underworld. He and the Sibyl were ferried to the underworld across the Acheron River. Spleenwort got its name because it was believed to have medicinal properties, particularly in treating "spleen" or, in our terms, depression.

Pett According to Samuel Johnson's 1755 *Dictionary*, "pett" is "A slight passion; a slight fit of anger."

Citron- Brandy based on citrus wine.  
Waters

Horns "Horns" were associated with being cuckolded.

costive Constipated.

Bag In Homer's *Odyssey*, Odysseus receives a bag of winds from Aeolus, the god of wind.

Thalestri~~Thalestris~~ Thalestris was a queen of the Amazons, the mythological race of warrior women.

Furies Three mythological goddesses of revenge.

Ire Intense anger.

paper In this period, women used paper, often heated and shaped with lead, to curl their hair.

Fillets A headband, here being used to shape a hairstyle.

Lead Lead was heated to curl women's hair.

Fops "Fop" was a contemporary slang term for man overly concerned with his outer appearance to the point that it bothers other people. It originated in this context in seventeenth-century England to refer to a generally foolish, effeminate man incapable of engaging in intellectual conversation. In this line, the definition of a "fop" is exemplified by the fact that they and ladies are both jealous of Belinda's hair.

Toast The term "toast" originated as a term for a lady for whose health a group of people dedicated a drink, similar to how people propose toasts today. This lady's name was seen as adding a special flavor to the drink in question, similar in function to a spiced toast that would have been a common feature in alcoholic drinks at the time. *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Circus The Ring-Road in Hyde Park, at this time a fashionable area to take a carriage on a nice day to see and be seen by those who could afford carriages.

Bell The bells of St Mary-le-Bow, a church which was located in the Cheapside district of London. This was not a fashionable area; it was for a long time traditionally associated with working-class Cockneys from the East End.

Snuff- High society gentlemen of this time generally stored their "snuff," or sniffing tobacco, in jeweled  
box boxes made from precious materials such as porcelain, ebony, and, in this case, amber. Sir Plume is very vain about his fancy snuff-box.

- Cane A walking stick, perhaps made of glass or porcelain, and "clouded" in a decorative way.
- Z---ds "Zounds" is a euphemism for "by God's wounds," that is, the wounds that Jesus received when being nailed to the cross. That was considered blasphemous, so "zounds" became a work-around. In context, a mild expletive, like "damn."
- Pox "Pox" refers either to small-pox or to venereal disease; here it is being used as an expletive without so specific a meaning.
- Lock This passage may to a passage from Homer (*Iliad, book 23*) in which Achilles cuts off a lock of his own hair to mourn and commemorate the death of Patroclus. Many of his men follow suit and cut off locks of their own hair, and Achilles then cuts off another lock of his hair that he had been growing for the river Spercheus to make his trip home safer. This continues the trend throughout the poem of using military conquest language to describe the event of cutting off a lock of Belinda's hair.
- Chariot May be a reference to the chariot driven by Helios (whose identity was later subsumed into that of Apollo), the god of the sun and a Titan, in order to mark the waxing and waning of daylight. He was complemented by his sisters, Eos and Selene, who personified the Dawn and the Moon, respectively.
- Bohea A black tea that originated in China's Buyi hills, for which it is named, and was of relatively low quality. (*Oxford English Dictionary*)
- Patch-box A small and rectangular (at times oval) box with beauty patches, small pieces of glass with a sticky side, which were worn by ladies of fashion during the eighteenth century for decorative purposes or to cover a blemish. A patch box was bejeweled and made of gold, and could also be painted/enamelled with amorous scenes. A patch could have the appearance of a star, an animal, an insect, a figure, a crescent, or a spot. The location of a patch also contributed to its signification. "Patch Box." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Encyclopedia Britannica* . Web. 3 Dec. 2015. <http://www.britannica.com/topic/patch-box>.
- China "China" in this context refers to porcelain dishes that came via trade routes from China. These trade routes between China and England first began to flourish during the eighteenth century, and many rich English citizens were obsessed with obtaining as many exotic Chinese goods as they could to show off their wealth. Chinese porcelain was much finer and of higher quality than anything that European makers could produce for a few more decades. Chang, Elizabeth. "The Chinese Taste in Eighteenth-Century England." *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 25 (2012): 248-50. University of Toronto Press. Web. 8 Dec. 2015.
- Poll Short for "Polly," surely the name of a pet parrot owned by Belinda.

#### Figure\_5

- Jove Jove, also known as Jupiter, was the king of the Roman gods. He is the Roman equivalent to the Greek god Zeus.
- Ears That is, the reason that the Baron cannot hear Belinda's cries is because of the intervention of the gods Fate and Jove. Just as the gods intervene in the lives of heroic characters from epic, here they interfere in the lives of trivial British aristocrats.
- Dido In the *Aeneid* by Virgil, Aeneas, the lover of Dido, queen of Carthage, is told by Zeus he must leave Italy because of fate. As a last effort Dido sends her sister Anna to persuade him to stay in Italy, but she fails.

Whalebone Whalebone was used to stiffen women's clothing, such as corsets and hoop skirts.

Gods Homer makes the gods fight in his tales similar to the way Pope forces the characters in the poem to fight.

Pallas Athena, the Goddess of Wisdom

Mars Mars was the Roman god of war.

Latona In Greek mythology, Latona was the mother of Apollo and Diana and the mistress of Zeus.

Hermes Hermes was the messenger god of Greek mythology, known as Mercury in Roman mythology.

Sconce A lantern with a handle and a shield, so that you could carry the light around.

sate That is, perched. Pope adds in a footnote: "Minerva in like manner, during the Battle of Ulysses with the Suitors in *Odysseus*, perches on a beam of the roof to behold it."

Beau A dandy; a man perhaps overly concerned with his appearance

Witling Someone who aspiring to become a wit (and probably failing at it).

Dapperwit A character in William Wycherley's 1671 play *Love in a Wood*.

Fopling Reference to Sir Fopling Flutter, a character in George Etherege's 1677 play *The Man of Mode*.

Camilla Pope later added a footnote: "The Words of a Song in the Opera of *Camilla*" *Camilla* was a popular opera, first staged in London in 1706 and frequently revived after that. Unlike many operas of the period, which were sung in Italian, this was in English, based on an Italian opera by Silvio Stampiglio.

Meander In Greek Mythology, Meander was both the name of a river god and for the river that was his home. "Meander" now is a general term for a bend in a river, or to describe anything or anyone that takes a roundabout route to a destination.

Plume The name gives insight to the character. A plume is an arrangement of feathers used by a bird for display or worn by a person for ornament. Plume is also used as a verb 'to plume oneself' synonymous to the action of preening at one's looks. *Oxford English Dictionary*

doughty Brave, capable, and determined, also marked by fearless resolution. *Oxford English Dictionary*

scales Jove, the head of the Roman system of deities, is here responsible for putting the social order back into balance, and is weighing the contending claims of the men and the women. These lines refer to a moment in Homer's *Iliad* where Zeus had used scales to balance the claims of Hector and Achilles and determined their fates.

subside Jove weighs the battle in the men's favor, but Belinda overcomes this by tossing snuff in the Baron's face.



- die "to die" is a common euphemism for orgasm. It was a common poetical term in the 16th and 17th centuries. *Oxford English Dictionary*
- Snuff A fine-ground tobacco, intended for consumption by being sniffed or snorted into the nose.
- Atom Pope is referring to the ancient theory that posited the "atom" as an infinitely small piece of matter that could not be further divided.
- Virago A man-like, heroic woman. *Oxford English Dictionary*
- n229 Pope adds in a footnote: "In imitation of the progress of Agamemnon's sceptre in Homer" Source: Pope, Alexander, and Adolphus William Ward. *The Poetical Works of Alexander Pope*. London: Macmillan, 1907. Print.
- seal-ring a finger ring bearing a seal; signet ring. *Oxford English Dictionary*
- Grandamgrandmother
- Othello In Shakespeare's *Othello*, the titular character is tricked into believing his wife Desdemona has been unfaithful by his ensign Iago. A key piece of evidence is Desdemona's handkerchief, which Iago has planted in the room of Othello's lieutenant, Cassio.
- Alms gifts of money extended as charity
- Riband a ribbon
- Casuistry Thick books of meaningless philosophy through the use of clever but unsound reasoning, especially in relation to moral questions. *Oxford English Dictionary*
- Poetic That is, Pope's eyes; he is the only person who can "see" what has happened, as the lock of hair has been transformed into a star in the sky. Buried here is the play on words: "coma," the Latin word for hair, is the root for "comet," celestial bodies that were so named because of the long hair-like trail that followed the main body. There is such a comet depicted in the upper-left hand corner of the plate that precedes this canto.
- Rome In popular myth and legend, Rome was founded by Romulus, who ruled for 37 years and then mysteriously disappeared, apparently taken up to the heavens in a whirlwind. Proculus, a friend of Romulus, swore that he saw Romulus ascending to heaven.
- Berenice Berenice II was the wife of Ptolemy III, the Pharaoh of Egypt in the third century BCE. The legend went that Berenice offered to cut off her hair as an offering to the goddess Aphrodite if Ptolemy would return safely home from a dangerous battle. After his safe return, she placed her hair in the temple. But the next morning, the hair had vanished. The court astronomer Conon suggested that the hair had been transformed into a constellation in the night sky, a star cluster that became (and is still) known as the "Coma Berenices," Latin for "Berenice's hair."
- Beau-monde High society.
- Mall A broad, tree-lined promenade in St. James's Park in London, where courtiers and other aristocrats would aim to see and be seen. [ *Image: View of the Mall in Saint James, around 1710, by an unknown artist. National Gallery, Public Domain.* ]

- Rosamond Rosamonda's Pond was a body of water in St. James's Park in London, on the site of what is now Buckingham Palace. The pond was named for Rosamund Clifford, the semi-legendary mistress of Henry II in the twelfth century whose relationship with the king became a byword for doomed love affairs. In the eighteenth century, the Pond was apparently well known as a place for lovers to meet secretly.
- Partridge John Partridge (1644-c.1714) an astrologer known for publishing almanacs with (generally incorrect) yearly predictions of deaths of notable individuals like the King of France (during a time where France and England were at war).
- Eyes i.e., the telescope, developed by Galileo Galilei
- Louis Louis XIV (1638-1715), the King of France. He was for a long time the most powerful and feared ruler in Europe. But the threat that Louis and France posed to their neighbors was checked by the Treaty of Utrecht, signed in 1713, and he died the year after this poem was published. His "Fate," then, was very much up in the air at the time that Pope was writing. *[Image: Portrait of Louis XIV by Hyacinthe Rigaud, 1701. Wikimedia Commons]*
- Muse The Muses are the nine Greek goddesses devoted to the arts; they are often imagined as a source of inspiration for a poet.