



The Maryland Gazette

Samuel Thomas

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Omnibus dormio.

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HERE is nothing more common, than to *Nod* over a Standish, and to write out several Sheets of Paper (as it were) in One's Sleep, while the Author imagines himself broad awake. On the contrary Our *real Slumbers* may sometimes contribute to our Instruction; and a Morn- may be employ'd to good Purpose in Penning a Dream the foregoing Night; as I hope will appear to your Reason their Perusal of the following Vision.

LAST Night I went to Bed with a calm untroubled Mind, after the Business of the Day; the natural Consequence of Health, and Innocence, the two solid Blessings of life. In my Sleep, I fancied my self in the midst of a very delightful Country-Landscape, in the Spring of the Year. The Freshness of the Greens, the Luxuriancy of Flowers, and the Melody of the Birds, all conspired to please Me. While I entertained my self with the Prospect, a Person, like a Bride, approached Me: She was dressed in yellow Silk, with a Coronet of Myrtle interwove with Jewels on her Head. Nothing was wanting before to make my Happiness compleat but a Companion: Transported at the Approach of so fair a Creature, I seized her Hand, which she seemed not to disapprove. I led her to a rising ground, where the Trees made a thick Shade: We seated our Selves on a Bed of Violets; and I began to address her with a Tenderness, which my Youth had never felt before.

IN that Moment two Women, different in their Mien and Habit, intruded upon our Retirement: The One appeared in full Bloom, her Cheeks dimpled with Smiles, her Hair flowing in the Wind, and her Limbs exposed to sight: There was an affected Levity in her Gestures, and she discovered a Sollicitousness to please, in spite of her seeming Negligence. The other came on with a more regal and majestick Pace: She wore a white unsported Vail, through which nevertheless it was easy to observe an uncommon gravity in all her Motions.

THE gay Appearance of the FIRST was as agreeable to Me, as the awful Presence of the LAST was un-

welcome. Her Looks as she lifted her Vail, gave a Check to my Transports; while the Other smiled upon me with Approbation. They both now contested, who should accost me first; Whereupon the *Airy Person* thus bespoke the *Matron-like Female*.

WHY should you break in upon the Solitude, and interrupt the Happiness of this Youthful Pair? Is it not sufficient, that you have your Votaries amongst Persons of maturer Years; and are adored by hoary Heads? Be happy (continued she turning to us) if Love can make you so; you are in the Prime of Life; and the present Season is indulgent to your Wishes.

WHILE she spoke, the whole Creation seemed to rejoice: My Heart was fired into Rapture; and I gazed on her with Satisfaction. The Other, observing my manifest Dislike of Her, cast on me a Look of Compassion, and disappeared.

ALL Restraint removed, I was now happy in my Imagination beyond Expression. I reproached my own Folly for wasting so many irretrievable Days in Labour, in Application of THOUGHT, and in studying the *romantick Visions* of PHILOSOPHY: I reflected on the short remaining Space of my Youth, and the exquisite Charms of the lovely Object, that lay beside me; who seemed to court my Affection, and with longing Eyes to chide my Delays.

ABANDONED to my present Bliss, I attempted the most endearing Caresses; when instantly I heard a violent Noise, as if the Elements were all at Variance; the Sky was darkened; Lightning flashed from the Clouds; the FLOWERS withered; The Verdure of the FIELDS was entirely blasted; and the RAVENS, and the OWLS perched over me with their *hoarding* Notes. Struck with Horror at the sudden Change, I sought for the Person whose Speech had animated me before: But the PHANTOM had vanished. This added to my Dread; and I felt an immediate Aversion for the Beauty, I purposed to take into my Arms: At the same Time, I had the Mortification to perceive her Heart as *averse* to Me.

WHEN