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## **Poems**

Poems and fables

**Gay, John**

**Edinburgh, 1773**

Fable XXXIX

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## F A B L E XXXIX.

The FATHER and JUPITER,

THE man to Jove his suit preferr'd ;  
 He begg'd a wife. His pray'r was heard.  
 Jove wonder'd at his bold addressing :  
 For how precarious is the blessing !  
 A wife he takes. And now for heirs  
 Again he worries heav'n with pray'rs.  
 Jove nods assent. Two hopeful boys  
 And a fine girl reward his joys.  
 Now, more solicitous he grew,  
 And set their future lives in view :  
 He saw that all respect and duty  
 Were paid to wealth, to pow'r, and beauty.  
 Once more, he cries, accept my prayer ;  
 Make my lov'd progeny thy care :  
 Let my first hope, my fav'rite boy,  
 All fortune's richest gifts enjoy.  
 My next with strong ambition fire ;  
 May favour teach him to aspire ;  
 Till he the step of pow'r ascend,  
 And courtiers to their idol bend.  
 With ev'ry grace, with ev'ry charm,  
 My daughter's perfect features arm.  
 If Heav'n approves, a father's blest'd.  
 Jove smiles, and grants his full request.

The first, a miser at the heart,  
 Studios of ev'ry griping art,  
 Heaps hoards on hoards with anxious pain,  
 And all his life devotes to gain.  
 He feels no joy, his cares increase,  
 He neither wakes nor sleeps in peace;  
 In fancy'd want (a wretch compleat)  
 He starves, and yet he dares not eat.

The next to sudden honours grew;  
 The thriving art of courts he knew:  
 He reach'd the height of pow'r and place;  
 Then fell, the victim of disgrace.

Beauty with early bloom supplies  
 His daughter's cheek, and points her eyes.  
 The vain coquette each suit disdains,  
 And glories in her lovers pains.  
 With age she fades, each lover flies,  
 Contemn'd, forlorn, she pines and dies.

When Jove the father's grief survey'd,  
 And heard him heav'n and fate upbraid;  
 Thus spoke the god. By outward show,  
 Men judge of happiness and woe:  
 Shall ignorance of good and ill  
 Dare to direct th' eternal will?  
 Seek virtue; and of that possess,  
 To Providence resign the rest.