

## John Florio

Florio's translation of Petrarch's *Triumphus Pudicitie* (lines 174 and 76-90) appears in chapter 12 of his *Second frutes*.<sup>1</sup> The whole book presents the Italian text and its English translation on facing pages; chapter 12 discusses love and women, presenting a dialogue between Pandolpho, Silvestro, Nicodemo, and Dormiglione. Silvestro is given both the first reference to the *Triumphus* (l. 174; in the modern Italian edition, "e la più casta v'era la più bella"), and the second (ll. 76-90) within his argument on women's chastity. The text is extant in the 1591 edition (the copy I am consulting, available in EEBO, comes from the Huntington Library). There is no modern edition.

### Italian text

#### p. 192

*\*Gli poueri non possono, gli ricchi non vogliono comprar l'oro a troppo alto pretio. Onde si può dire ad honor della beltà come scrisse, p. 194 Il Petrarca nel triumpho della castità.*

*La più casta era iui la piu bella,*

*\*Per questo solo perche casta visse,*

*Penelope non fa minor d'Vlisse.*

#### p. 196

*\*Deh non restate signor mio per gl'uccelli di seminar' il grano, altrimenti non sarete ne buon massaio, ne huomo prudente; cio che dite appartiene alle cortigiane, dette donne d'assai' & non alle donne da bene e di pochi. Delle quali se volete veder la mostra leggete il Petrarca nel suo triumpho della castità, il quale come lor Mastro di campo le schiera cosi.*

*Armate eran con lei tutte le sue,*

*Chiare virtuti, ò gloriosa schiera,*

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<sup>1</sup> *Florios second frutes to be gathered of twelue trees, of diuers but delightsome tastes to the tongues of Italians and Englishmen. To which is annexed his Gardine of recreation yeelding six thousand Italian prouerbs*, London: Thomas Woodcock, 1591. Chapter 12 is on pp. 164-205.

*E teneansi per mano a due a due:*

*Honestate e vergogna alla fronte era,*

**p. 198**

*Nobile par delle virtù diuine,*

*Che fan costei sopra le donne altera:*

*Senno e modestia all'altre due confine:*

*Habito con diletto in mezzo il cuore:*

*Perseuerantia & gloria in su la fine:*

*Bell'accoglientia, accorgimento fore:*

*Cortesia intorno intorno, e puritate;*

*Timor d'infamia, e sol desio d'honore:*

*Pensier canuti in giouenil'etate;*

*Et la concordia che è si rara al mondo.*

*V'era con castità somma beltate. con ciò che segue.*

### **English text**

**p. 193**

The poore cannot, the rich will not, buy golde to deare. So as we may say in honour of beauty, as **p.**

**195** Petrarke wrote in the triumph of chastitie,

The chastest there of all, the fayrest was of all,

And onely for in worke she spent her dayes,

Penelopes renoune doth match Vlisses prayse.

**p. 197**

O cease not sir for all the birds to sow your corne, els shall you neither be a good husband, nor a wise man,

But all this appertaines to curtezans, called common women, not to the better, though the fewer sorte, but if you wil view their muster: reade Petrarke in his triumph of chastitie, who as their prouost marshall ordereth them thus:

With her the vertues all, O glorious band,  
 Resplendent in their complete armour paced,  
 And two by two they marched hand in hand.  
 First honesty with bashfulnes was placed,

**p. 199**

A noble payre of vertues most deuine;  
 Which her aboute the highest Ladies graced.  
 Wisedome and modesty with them combine:  
 Delight with seemlines kept hearts possession,  
 Perseuerance and glory came in fine:  
 Without, fayre entertainment and direction.  
 About about pure minde and curtesie:  
 Sole care of honour, feare of fames oppression,  
 Gray-headed thoughts in youthfull iolitie,  
 And that consent which in the world is rare,  
 Their rarest beauty was with chastitie. with that which followeth.