

PHILLIS WHEATLEY — "To His Excellency, General Washington"

<p><i>→ Heavenly</i> Celestial choir! Enthron'd in realms of light, Columbia's scenes of glorious toil I write. While freedom's cause her anxious breast alarms, She flashes dreadful in <u>effulgent</u> arms. <i>shining brightly</i> See mother earth her offspring's fate bemoan, And nations gaze at scenes before unknown! See the bright beams of heaven's revolving light Involved in sorrows and the veil of night!</p>	<p>What's going on in this stanza? The heavens + other nations gaze at the scene about to unfold.</p>
<p><i>→ of justice? of liberty?</i> The goddess comes, she moves divinely fair. Olive and laurel binds her golden hair: Wherever shines this native of the skies, Unnumber'd charms and recent graces rise.</p>	<p>What's going on? The goddess of liberty/justice arrives - everything is blessed by her presence. What are the symbols in this stanza, and what do they represent? olive = peace laurel = victory</p>
<p><i>→ Inspiration favorably</i> Muse! Bow propitious while my pen relates How pour her arm'd through a thousand gates, As when <u>Eolus</u> heaven's fair face deforms, Enwrap'd in tempest and a night of storms; Astonish'd ocean feels the wild uproar, The reffluent surges beat the sounding shore; Or thick as leaves in Autumn's golden reign, Such, and so many, moves the warrior's train. In bright array they seek the work of war, Where high unfurl'd the <u>ensign</u> waves in air. <i>flag</i></p>	<p>What's going on? Wheatley asks the muse to help her relate the story - America (Columbia) has many troops, with their flag waving. Strong & mighty! Eolus - god of the wind What is the personification? "Autumn's golden reign" "Ocean feels the wild uproar" What is the simile? "thick as leaves in Autumn's golden reign"</p>
<p>Shall I to Washington their praise recite? Enough thou know'st them in the fields of fight. Thee, first in peace and honors—we demand The grace and glory of thy martial band. Fann'd for thy valor, for thy virtues more, Hear every tongue thy guardian aid implore!</p>	<p>What's going on? She is praising Washington for his character and his success in battle.</p>
<p>One century scarce perform'd its destiny round, When Gallic powers Columbia's fury found; And so may you, whoever dares disgrace The land of freedom's heaven-defended race! Fix'd are the eyes of nations on the scales, For in their hopes Columbia's arm prevails. Anon Britannia droops the pensive head, While round increase the rising hills of dead. Ah! Cruel blindness to Columbia's state! Lament thy thirst of boundless power too late.</p>	<p>What's going on? All nations are watching - America (Columbia) is victorious, just as it was in the French + Indian War. What examples of personification are here? "eyes of nations" "Columbia's arm" "Britannia droops the pensive head"</p>
<p>Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side, Thy ev'ry action let the goddess guide. A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine, With gold unfading, WASHINGTON! Be thine!</p>	<p>What's going on? She wishes Washington well and grants continued success. What is the allusion? crown, mansion / throne - power / royalty / Heaven</p>