

Mason Tung: *Variorum Edition of Alciato*.

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Emblem 155.

1531	D3v	1567	(192)
1534	69	1577	509
1547	67	1583	504f
1551	167	1621	658

In Adultores.¹









Errabat² socio Mors iuncta Cupidine,³ secum⁴
Mors pharetras,⁵ paruus tela gerebat Amor.
Diuertere simul, simul una⁶ & nocte cubarunt,⁷
Cæcus⁸ Amor, Mors hoc tempore cæca fuit.
Alter enim alterius⁹ malè prouida spicula sumpsit,¹⁰
Mors aurata,¹¹ tenet¹² ossea tela puer.¹³
Debuit inde senex qui nunc Acheronticus esse,¹⁴
Ecce amat¹⁵ & capiti florea sarta parat.
Ast¹⁶ ego mutato quia Amor me perculit arcu,
Deficio,¹⁷ iniiciunt & mihi fata manum.
Parce puer, Mors signa tenens uictricia¹⁸ parce,¹⁹
Fac ego amem,²⁰ subeat fac Acheronta senex.

Textual Variants

¹31]DE MORTE ET AMORE 51]De Morte, & Amore. ²21]ERRABAT ³31]cupidine 51]Cupidine.
67,77,83,21]Cupidine: ⁴31]secum, 67]secum: ⁵31]pharetras ⁶47,51,67,77,83,21]vna ⁷67]cubârunt.
77,83,21]cubarunt: ⁸51]Cæcus, ⁹31]alterius, ¹⁰51,67]sumpsit: ¹¹83]aurata ¹²83]tenet, ¹³83]puer: ¹⁴51,67]esse:
¹⁵51,67,77,83,21]amat, ¹⁶21]At ¹⁷31]Deficio 51]Deficio: ¹⁸47,51,67,77,83,21]victricia ¹⁹51]parce.
77,83,21]parce: ²⁰31]amem 51,67]amen:

Commentary

PICTURE influence: adopted by John Ogilby as fable no. 39 in his *Fables of Aesop and Aesopics*, London, 1668 (see Tung, *Emblematica*, 4,2:326). **variant:** 31 shows at right a blindfolded Cupid with flaming feet, who prepares to cast a dart with his right hand while holding another in his left, and behind him Death, who prepares to cast a dart with his left hand; facing them at left are their respective targets, a young man hit in his chest with Death's dart cast by Cupid while next to him an older man hit in his chest with Cupid's dart cast by Death. 34 follows this design in reverse, but making the old man much older, while the younger man has been reduced to a boy sitting on the ground. In the background, Death is doing something to the quiver of the sleeping Cupid (see the next emblem). In 47 winged Cupid and a winged Death are flying in the air and shooting at their victims below them; three younger men with Cupid's arrows are wounded and dying on the ground, while three older men with Death's arrows are pining for love. 51 follows this design in reverse but reduces older men to two. 67 also follows 47 in reverse but removes Death's wings and adds a fourth body on the ground. 77 switches the woodcut with that of the next emblem (q.v.), but 21 switches it back in which the design further simplifies that of 51. It follows the example of 67 by taking wings away from Death and reduces the number of men to one each, the older man is walking to the left with a young woman on his arm. 83 follows the example of 77 by switching cuts (which closely copy those in 47) with the next emblem.

Emblem 155.	De Morte & Amore.	Cupid & Death shoot old and young men.
		
1531, f. D3v.	1534, p. 69.	1546 (nonexistent).
		
1547, n. 65, p. 67.	1551, p. 167.	1567, n. 192, p. 192.
		
1577, n. 154.	1583, n. 154, p. 504.	1621, n. 155.