

FUENTE OVEJUNA (FRONDOSO)

Lope de Vega

FRONDOSO: It's the fashion and the law
Which euphemises every flaw.
The fat man's "well-set-up"; the lean
Is "slim" and "graceful in his mien";
The fledgling scholar, still at college,
Is called "a doctor" for his knowledge;
The stone-blind has a "visual failing";
The squint-eyed has a "roving glance";
The cripple "does not like to dance";
The big-mouthed churl who's always railing
Is "fearless"; the potato-eyed
Old blinkard is called "shrewd and sharp";
The ignorant is magnified
For "wisdom"; he who loves to carp
And cavil, why, he's "persevering";
The busybody's "most endearing";
The gasbag's "deep" and "wise"; the shameless
Is "daring"; and the coward's blameless,
Though "falling short"; the domineering,
Insulting ruffian is miscalled
"A martial figure"; he who's bald
For "grave authority's" extolled;
The grudging sulk is praised for "gravity";
There's "wit" in ignorant depravity;
The insolent is "brave and bold";
The madman goes for "free and easy,"
For "humourous" the tout who's broke;
"Companionable, bright, and breezy"
They call the brandy-gozzled soak;
The snuffler and the bulbous-snouted
Are only "suffering from a cold";
Arrogance for "reserve" is doubted,
And grumpiness for "shyness" goes;
The hunchback passes for "well-loaded" ..
And so, lest I should be outmoded,
I call you "Ladies" I suppose.
But that's enough, for in this way
I could talk nonsense all the day.