

1-1-2013

Rationale

Joseph Fleming
Nova Southeastern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/digressions>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Fleming, Joseph (2013) "Rationale," *Digressions Literary Magazine*: Vol. 10 , Article 30.
Available at: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/digressions/vol10/iss1/30>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the CAHSS Journals at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digressions Literary Magazine by an authorized editor of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact nsuworks@nova.edu.

Rationale

Author Bio

I enjoy creating my own origami models, watching British comedy panel shows, and learning bizarre, random facts. I write the instant an idea comes to mind, often dropping whatever I was doing, and edit until I'm satisfied. (I edited this sentence four times!)

Rationale

JOSEPH FLEMING

Sir, mind thy tongue and mind withal—
Some Reason may fond Reason stall!
Right Invention¹ is too dear to sit
By which little wits deem little fit.
Truly, man can know the night as day
And so offer Reasons why he may
As soothly call the day his night
With coffered Reasons why he might.²
Though surely must in spades be spades,³
For those simple Reasons were they made,
Save if spades known for other things,
Deny them that, when Reasons bring?
Lo Reasons bear the same rancor
Such palates hath to aired liquor,⁴
Yet palates be of Basis taste,
To Basis true doth man make haste.⁵
Curse wit, known by vagaries such!
But if it can be praised as much
That Reasons be what make man merry
Let Reasons be by bushels plenty.⁶

¹i.e., that which is favored by Invention (Knowledge)

²An allusion to the eighty-ninth sonnet of Sir Philip Sidney's *Astrophil and Stella*

³"I come from the country; I call a spade a spade" - Ancient Greek maxim

⁴"Vinegar is the son of wine" - Jewish proverb

⁵Lines 15-16 contain the same play on words; Line 13 contains another

⁶"If Reasons were as plenty as Blackberries, I would give no man a Reason upon compulsion, I." - *Henry IV*, Act II, Scene IV