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Bid adieu, adieu, adieu,

Bid adieu to girlish days.

Happy Love is come to woo

Thee and woo thy girlish ways –

The zone that doth become thee fair,

The snood upon thy yellow hair,

When thou hast heard his name upon

The bugles of the cherubim

Begin thou softly to unzone

Thy girlish bosom unto him

And softly to undo the snood

That is the sign of maidenhood.

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### Notes

This was No.11 in the 1907 edition.

Joyce's favourite from the suite, according to Tindall, this is the only lyric for which he wrote an original melody (although he had previously set lyrics by Irish poets Mangan and Yeats). A version by the American mezzo soprano Nan Merriman arranged by Edmund Pendleton and recorded in 1965 is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXHqAGgG6YQ>

Consummation draws ever nearer; the Beloved is bid prepare to leave behind her girlhood.

'Thee', 'thy', 'thou' and 'doth' – back to Dowland and Jonson.

Personified 'Love' is happy.

The 'yellow hair' reminds us that this is 'Goldenhair'; once again, hair is sexualised.

There is a sense of ritual here, underpinned by the re-invocation of 'zone' and 'snood' in both stanzas.