

[Vienna, before 8th April 1789]

On the proposed journey.

	I journey to Berlin with	expectations
	My name may now with honour brightly	blaze,
[5]	Yet little do I prize these great	laudations
	If your voice, dear, is absent from that	praise.
	But we shall meet again – ah, sweet	relief,
	To kiss, embrace – to sink in blissful	rest,
	Till then our fate is weeping – tears of	grief
[10]	Must flow – and rend asunder heart and	breast.

[LITERAL VERSION:]

	When I travel to Berlin
	I truly hope for much honour and fame
[5]	Yet I despise all adulation
	If you, my wife, are silent in that praise
	When we then see each other again, kiss,
	Embrace, oh the delight and joy!
	But tears – tears of mourning – flow
[10]	Before that – and rend heart and breast.

¹ BD: Original last seen auction 1928. Edition Schiedermaier II.

² BD: The rhyme words, in the style of “bouts-rimés”, a parlour game in which the rhymes are given and the rest of the lines have to be invented, were probably given to Mozart by Constance before he set off for Berlin on 8th April, 1789, with Prince [Fürst] Karl Lichnowsky. BD VI, pp. 375-376, has two more examples of the genre, one written by Constance for her son Karl.