

# A Song: Lying is an occupation

By Laetitia Pilkington

Lying is an occupation,  
Used by all who mean to rise;  
Politicians owe their station,  
But to well concerted lies.

These to lovers give assistance,  
To ensnare the fair-one's heart;  
And the virgin's best resistance  
Yields to this commanding art.

Study this superior science,  
Would you rise in Church or State;  
Bid to Truth a bold defiance,  
'Tis the practice of the great.

Source: *English Women's Poetry, Elizabethan to Victorian* (edited by R.E. Pritchard) (Fyfield Books, 1990)