

**Francesco Petrarch** (July 1304 - July 1374)

from *Rime Sparse*

*original Italian*

**i**

Voi ch'ascoltate in rime sparse il suono  
di quei sospiri ond'io nudriva 'l core  
in sul mio primo giovenile errore  
quand'era in parte altr'uom da quel ch'ì sono,

**A**

**B**

**B**

**A**

del vario stile in ch'io piango et ragiono  
fra le vane speranze e 'l van dolore,  
ove sia chi per prova intenda amore,  
spero trovar pietà, nonché perdono.

**A**

**B**

**B**

**A**

Ma ben veggio or sí come al popol tutto  
favola fui gran tempo, onde sovente  
di me mesdesmo meco mi vergogno;

**C**

**D**

**E**

et del mio vaneggiar vergogna è 'l frutto,  
e 'l pentersi, e 'l conoscer chiaramente  
che quanto piace al mondo è breve sogno.

**C**

**D**

**E**

*English translation*

**i**

You who hear the sound, in scattered rhymes,  
of those sighs on which I fed my heart,  
in my first vagrant youthfulness,  
when I was partly other than I am,

I hope to find pity, and forgiveness,  
for all the modes in which I talk and weep,  
between vain hope and vain sadness,  
in those who understand love through its trials.

Yet I see clearly now I have become  
an old tale amongst all these people, so that  
it often makes me ashamed of myself;

and shame is the fruit of my vanities,  
and remorse, and the clearest knowledge  
of how the world's delight is a brief dream.

taken from:  
<http://petrarch.petersadlon.com/canzoniere.html>

trans: A.S. Kline

**Henry Howard** (1517 – 19 January 1547)

*Complaint of the Lover Disdained*

In Cyprus springs, whereas Dame Venus dwelt, **A 5**  
A well so hot, that whoso tastes the same, **B 5**  
Were he of stone, as thawed ice should melt, **A 4.5**  
And kindled find his breast with fixed flame; **B 4.5**  
Whose moist poison dissolved hath my hate. **C 4.5**  
This creeping fire my cold limbs so opprest, **D 5**  
That in the heart that harbour'd freedom, late: **C 5**  
Endless despair long thraldom hath imprest. **D 5**  
Another so cold in frozen ice is found, **E 5.5**  
Whose chilling venom of repugnant kind, **F 5**  
The fervent heat doth quench of Cupid's wound, **E 5**  
And with the spot of change infects the mind; **F 5**  
    Whereof my dear hath tasted to my pain: **G 5**  
    My service thus is grown into disdain. **G 5**

*Description of Spring, Wherein Every Thing Renews,*

*Save Only the Lover* || an experimental form

The soote season, that bud and blome forth bringes, **A 5**  
With grene hath clad the hill, and eke the vale: **B 5**  
The nightingale with fethers new she sings: **A 5**  
The turtle to her make hath tolde her tale: **B 5**  
Somer is come, for every spray nowe springes: **A 5**  
The hart hath hung his olde head on the pale: **B 5**  
The buck in brake his winter cote he flings: **A 5**  
The fishes flote with newe repaired scale: **B 5**  
The adder all her sloughe away she slinges: **A 5**  
The swift swallow pursueth the flyes smale: **B 5**  
The busy bee her honye now she minges: **A 5**  
Winter is worne that was the flowers bale: **B 5**  
And thus I see among these pleasant things **A 5**  
Each care decays, and yet my sorrow springs. **A 5**

1. *soote*: sweet

4. *turtle*: turtledove; make: mate

6. *his olde head*: i.e. his antlers; *pale*: fence post

7. *brake*: bushes

9. *sloughe*: skin

11. *minges*: mingles; mixes

12: *bale*: evil; harm; misfortune; woe; misery; sorrow

**Emund Spencer** (1552 — 1599)

from *Amoretti*

**IX**

Long while I sought to what I might compare **A**  
Those powerful eyes, which lighten my dark sight, **B**  
Yet find I nought on earth to which I dare **A**  
Resemble th' image of their goodly light. **B**  
Not to the sun, for they do shine by night; **B**  
Nor to the moon, for they are changed never; **C**  
Nor to the stars, for they have purer sight; **B**  
Nor to the fire, for they consume not ever; **C**  
Nor to the lightning, for they still persever; **C**  
Nor to the diamond, for they are more tender; **D**  
Nor unto crystal, far nought may them sever; **C**  
Nor unto glass, such baseness might offend her; **D**  
Then to the Maker self they likest be, **E**  
Whose light doth lighten all that here we see. **E**

**William Shakespeare** (1564 — 1616)

from *The Sonnets*

**126**

O thou, my lovely boy, who in thy power **A**  
Dost hold Time's fickle glass, his fickle hour; **A**  
Who hast by waning grown, and therein show'st **B**  
Thy lovers withering, as thy sweet self grow'st. **B**  
If Nature, sovereign mistress over wrack, **C**  
As thou goest onwards, still will pluck thee back, **C**  
She keeps thee to this purpose, that her skill **D**  
May time disgrace and wretched minutes kill. **D**  
Yet fear her, O thou minion of her pleasure! **E**  
She may detain, but not still keep, her treasure: **E**  
Her audit (though delayed) answered must be, **F**  
And her quietus is to render thee. **F**