

Lady Mary Wroth (1587 – 1651/3)

from *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*

I

When night's blacke Mantle could most darknes prove,
And sleepe deaths Image¹ did my senses hier,
From knowledg of my self, then thoughts did move
Swifter then those, most switnes need require:

In sleepe, a Chariot drawne by wind'd desire²,
I sawe: wher sate bright Venus Queene of Love,
And att her feete her sonne, still adding fire
To burning hearts which she did hold above,

But one hart flaming more then all the rest,
The goddesse held, and put itt to my brest,
Dear sonne² now shutt³, sayd she: thus must we winne;

Hee her obay'd, and martir'd⁴ my poore hart.
I, waking hop'd as dreames itt would depart,
Yett since: O mee, a lover have I binn. ⁵

A 6

B 5

A 5

B 5

B 6

A 5

B 5

A 5

C 5

D 5

C 5

D 5

E 5

E 5

1. In classical mythology, Sleep and Death are twin brothers.

2. Venus, Roman goddess of love; her son is Cupid, god of desire, longing, and lust. His arrows force mortals to either fall in love or reject love.

3. *shoot*

4. Frequently in these sonnet sequences, mortals' hearts are shown being tortured or violently whipped by immortal beings.

5. The ending theme shows the mortal Poet submitting them self to the higher immortal authority.

Judging by the resulting tone, what major theme will be shown within the full sequence of poems?

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VII

Loue¹leau² to vrge, thou knowest thou hast the hand

‘Tis Cowardize to striue where none resist,

Pray thee leau³ off, I yeeld vnto thy band³,

Doe not thus, still in thine owne power persist.

Behold, I yeeld; let forces be dismist,

I am thy Subiect conquer’d bound to stand

Neuer thy foe, but did thy claime assist,

Seeking thy due of those who did withstand⁴.

But now it seemes thou would’st I should thee loue,

I doe confesse, t’was thy will made mee choose,

And thy faire shewes⁵ made me a Louer proue,

When I my freedome did for paine refuse⁶.

Yet this Sir god, your Boy-ship I despise⁷,

Your charmes I obey, but loue not want of eyes. ⁸

A 5

1. In this case, the Poet Speaker is addressing Cupid, directly as “Love.”

B 5

A 5

2. See Wikipedia.org re: “u” versus “v”
[<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V>].

B 5.5

B 5

3. That is, she surrenders to his power.

A 5

4. *What does this admission tell you about her past actions with her lovers?*

B 5

A 5

5. In this case, “shewes” refers to “fair displays” —past actions from Cupid in other words.

C 5

D 5

6. That is: I willingly gave up my freedom.

C 5

7. An insulting comment towards a deity.

D 5

E 5

8. Which **volta** is the stronger statement?

E 5