Sonnet 30

Edmund Spenser

My love is like to ice, and I to fire:  
how comes it then that this her cold so great  
is not dissolv'd through my so hot desire,  
but harder grows, the more I her entreat?  
  
Or how comes it that my exceeding heat  
is not delayed by her heart frozen cold,  
but that I burn much more in boiling sweat,  
and feel my flames augmented manifold?  
  
What more miraculous thing may be told  
that fire, which all thing melts, should harden ice:  
and ice which is congealed with senseless cold,  
should kindle fire by wonderful device?  
  
Such is the pow'r of love in gentle mind  
that it can alter all the course of kind.

**Edmund Spenser - Sonnet 75**

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,

But came the waves and washed it away:

Again I wrote it with a second hand,

But came the tide, and made my pains his prey.

Vain man, said she, that doest in vain assay

A mortal thing so to immortalize,

For I myself shall like to this decay,

And eek my name be wiped out likewise.

Not so (quoth I), let baser things devise

To die in dust, but you shall live by fame:

My verse your virtues rare shall eternize,

And in the heavens write your glorious name.

Where whenas Death shall all the world subdue,

Out love shall live, and later life renew.

**SONNET 18**

William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?   
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:   
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;   
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:   
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

**SONNET 29**

**William Shakespeare**

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,  
I all alone beweep my outcast state   
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries  
And look upon myself and curse my fate,   
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,   
Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd,  
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,   
With what I most enjoy contented least;   
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,  
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,   
Like to the lark at break of day arising   
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;  
For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings  
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

**SONNET 116**

**William Shakespeare**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark   
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks   
Within his bending sickle's compass come:   
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,   
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
   If this be error and upon me proved,  
   I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

**SONNET 130**

**William Shakespeare**

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.  
I have seen roses damask'd, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;   
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.  
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;  
I grant I never saw a goddess go;  
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground:  
   And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
   As any she belied with false compare.

Petrarch's sonnet 90

She used to let her golden hair fly free.  
For the wind to toy and tangle and molest;  
Her eyes were brighter than the radiant west.  
(Seldom they shine so now.)  I used to see

Pity look out of those deep eyes on me.  
("It was false pity," you would now protest.)  
I had love's tinder heaped within my breast;  
What wonder that the flame burnt furiously?

She did not walk in any mortal way,  
But with angelic progress; when she spoke,  
Unearthly voices sang in unison.

She seemed divine among the dreary folk  
Of earth.  You say she is not so today?  
Well, though the bow's unbent, the wound bleeds on.

**Sonnet 292**

**"Sonnet 292" by Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374)**

The eyes I spoke of once in words that burn,  
the arms and hands and feet and lovely face  
that took me from myself for such a space  
of time and marked me out from other men;

the waving hair of unmixed gold that shone,  
the smile that flashed with the angelic rays  
that used to make this earth a paradise,  
are now a little dust, all feeling gone;

and yet I live, grief and disdain to me,  
left where the light I cherished never shows,  
in fragile bark on the tempestuous sea.

Here let my loving song come to a close;  
the vein of my accustomed art is dry,  
and this, my lyre, turned at last to tears.