

2ed Stage
Second Lecture

A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning

BY JOHN DONNE

As virtuous men pass mildly away,
And whisper to their souls to go,
Whilst some of their sad friends do say
The breath goes now, and some say, No:

So let us melt, and make no noise,
No tear-floods, nor sigh-tempests move;
'Twere profanation of our joys
To tell the laity our love.

Moving of th' earth brings harms and fears,
Men reckon what it did, and meant;
But trepidation of the spheres,
Though greater far, is innocent.

Dull sublunary lovers' love
(Whose soul is sense) cannot admit
Absence, because it doth remove
Those things which elemented it.

But we by a love so much refined,
That our selves know not what it is,
Inter-assured of the mind,
Care less, eyes, lips, and hands to miss.

Our two souls therefore, which are one,
Though I must go, endure not yet
A breach, but an expansion,
Like gold to airy thinness beat.

If they be two, they are two so

As stiff twin compasses are two;
Thy soul, the fixed foot, makes no show
To move, but doth, if the other do.

And though it in the center sit,
Yet when the other far doth roam,
It leans and hearkens after it,
And grows erect, as that comes home.

Such wilt thou be to me, who must,
Like th' other foot, obliquely run;
Thy firmness makes my circle just,
And makes me end where I begun.

John Donne is the major poet of the Metaphysical school of the seventeenth century. Though he was a priest, he wrote the most magnificent metaphysical love poem well as a sequence of Holy Sonnets dealing with religious themes. His poems are characterized by the following

1. His poems are written in simple language; the language of every day speech.
2. He uses the religious language in his love poems.
3. He uses far-fetched imager from different branches of knowledge.
4. The oneness of the two lovers is core of his philosophy of love.
5. Every poem of Donne is a little drama.
6. He uses logical argument to convince the listener in his poems or the readers.
7. Variety of tone, e. g. a poem may start serious and end humerous or may start sad and end happy.
8. Ünified sensibility: thepoet uses his mind to express his feelings.

9. The use of the language of paradox.

10. The use of the metaphysical conceit which is an extended metaphor, such as the conceit of the "compasses and the conceit of "gold" in his famous "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning". poem

11. The use of hyperbolic language (overstatement or exaggeration).