

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 13

O! that you were your self; but, love, you are
No longer yours, than you your self here live:
Against¹ this coming end you should prepare,
And your sweet semblance² to some other give:

5 So should that beauty which you hold in lease³
Find no determination⁴; then you were
Yourself again, after yourself's decease,
When your sweet issue⁵ your sweet form should bear.
Who lets so fair a house⁶ fall to decay,

10 Which husbandry⁷ in honour might uphold,
Against the stormy gusts of winter's day
And barren rage of death's eternal cold?
O! none but unthrifths⁸. Dear my love, you know,
You had a father: let your son say so.

(110 Wörter)

¹**Against** in expectation of – ²**semblance** appearance – ³**lease** on loan – ⁴**determination** end – ⁵**issue** children – ⁶body, family, kin
(see Sonnet 10, lines 7-8) – ⁷**husbandry** good housekeeping, marriage – ⁸**unthrifths** wasters, prodigals