

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

## Sonnet 29

When in disgrace<sup>1</sup> with Fortune and men's eyes,  
I all alone beweep my outcast state,  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless<sup>2</sup> cries,  
And look upon myself and curse my fate,  
5 Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
Featured<sup>3</sup> like him, like him with friends possess'd,  
Desiring this man's art<sup>4</sup>, and that man's scope<sup>5</sup>,  
With what I most enjoy contented least.  
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,  
10 Haply<sup>6</sup> I think on thee, and then my state<sup>7</sup>,  
Like to the lark at break of day arising  
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;  
For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings  
That then I scorn to change my state<sup>8</sup> with kings.  
(114 Wörter)

<sup>1</sup>**in disgrace** out of favour – <sup>2</sup>**bootless** useless – <sup>3</sup>**Featured** handsome – <sup>4</sup>**art** skill, learning – <sup>5</sup>**scope** abilities, opportunities, achievements, freedom – <sup>6</sup>**Haply** fortunately, by chance – <sup>7</sup>**state** here: state of mind – <sup>8</sup>**state** here: social status

## Aufgaben

1. Compare the speaker's mood at the beginning and at the end of the poem. Then divide the poem into sections, giving each a headline.
2. Analyse the structure of the poem. In what way do structure and form underline its content and the above-mentioned feelings?
3. What concept of love is depicted in the sonnet?