

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 118

Like as, to make our appetites more keen,

With eager compounds¹ we our palate urge²,

As, to prevent our maladies unseen³,

We sicken to shun⁴ sickness when we purge;

5 Even so⁵, being full or your ne'er-cloying⁶ sweetness,

To bitter sauces did I frame my feeding;

And, sick of welfare⁷, found a kind of meetness⁸

To be diseas'd, ere that⁹ there was true needing.

Thus policy in love, to anticipate¹⁰

10 The ills that were not, grew to faults assur'd,

And brought to medicine a healthful state,

Which, rank of goodness, would by ill be cur'd;

But thence I learn, and find the lesson true,

Drugs poison him that so fell sick of you.

(112 Wörter)

¹**eager compounds** spicy sauces – ²**our palate urge** stimulate our taste – ³**maladies unseen** potential illnesses – ⁴**shun** avoid –
⁵**Even so** in the same way – ⁶**ne'er-cloying** never disgusting – ⁷**welfare** health, happiness – ⁸**meetness** appropriateness – ⁹**ere**
that before – ¹⁰**to anticipate** to prevent