

Module 4: Examining Love, Friendship, and Power

Topic 2 Content: "Sonnet 29" by William Shakespeare

When, in disgrace¹ with Fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweep² my outcast state
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless³ 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'd⁴,
Desiring this man's art⁵ and that man's scope⁶,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply⁷ I think on thee, and then my state,
Like to the lark⁸ at break of day arising
From sullen⁹ earth, sings hymns¹⁰ at heaven's gate;
 For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings
 That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

¹ out of favor

² cry

³ useless

⁴ that he has

⁵ skills or abilities

⁶ range of knowledge

⁷ by chance

⁸ songbird

⁹ dull or dark

¹⁰ songs of praise