"Holy Sonnet: Batter my heart, three-person'd God"

By John Donne

Transcription, correction, editorial commentary, and markup by Students and Staff of the University of Virginia

POEMS,
By J. D[onne].
WITH
ELEGIES
ON THE AUTHOR'S
Death.

LONDON.

Printed by *M. F.* for [J]OHN MARRIOT, and are to be sold at his shop in St *Dunstans* Church-yard in *Fleet-street*. 1633.

10. (XIV), numbering

- Batter my heart, three person'd God; for, you
- 2 As yet but knocke, breathe, shine, and seeke to mend;
- 3 That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow mee, and bend
- 4 Your force, to breake, blowe, burn and make me new,
- 5 I, like an usurpt towne, to another due,
- 6 Labour to admit you, but Oh, to no end,
- 7 Reason your viceroy in mee, mee should defend,
- 8 But is captiv'd, and proves weake or untrue,
- Yet dearely I love you, and would be lov'd faine,
- 10 But am betroth'd unto your enemie,
- Divorce mee, untie, or breake that knot againe,
- 12 Take mee to you, imprison mee, for I
- Except you enthral mee, never shall be free,
- Nor ever chast, except you ravish mee.

Footnotes

numberinghe first number comes from Helen Gardner's renumbering of the Sonnets in her 1952 edition of *The Divine Poems*, and the Roman numeral in parentheses retains the sequence given in editions printed from 1635 to 1669.

- [RR]