

# "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*

- [TP] -

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 Dunstons*  
Church-yard in *Fleet-street.* 1633.

10. (XIV), [numbering](#)

1 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,  
9 Yet dearly I love you, and would be lov'd faine,  
10 But am betroth'd unto your enemye,  
11 Divorce mee, untie, or breake that knot againe,  
12 Take mee to you, imprison mee, for I  
13 Except you enthrall mee, never shall be free,  
14 Nor ever chaste, except you ravish mee.

## Footnotes

numbering. The 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]