

Mad in pursuit, and in possession so;
 10 Had, having, and in quest to have, extreme;
 A bliss in proof,⁹ and proved, a very^o woe;
 Before, a joy proposed; behind, a dream.
 All this the world well knows; yet none knows well
 To shun the heaven that leads men to this hell.

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My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;¹
 Coral is far more red than her lips' red;
 If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
 If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
 5 I have seen roses damasked,^o red and white,
 But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
 And in some perfumes is there more delight
 Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.²
 I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
 10 That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
 I grant I never saw a goddess go;^o
 My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.
 And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare^o
 As any she belied^o with false compare.

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Whoever hath her wish, thou hast thy *Will*,³
 And *Will* to boot, and *Will* in overplus;
 More than enough am I that vex thee still,^o
 To thy sweet will making addition thus.
 5 Wilt thou, whose will is large and spacious,
 Not once vouchsafe^o to hide my will in thine?
 Shall will in others seem right gracious,
 And in^o my will no fair acceptance shine?
 The sea, all water, yet receives rain still,
 10 And in abundance addeth to his store,^o
 So thou being rich in *Will* add to thy *Will*
 One will of mine to make thy large *Will* more.
 Let no unkind, no fair beseechers kill;⁴
 Think all but one, and me in that one *Will*.

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When my love swears that she is made of truth,⁵
 I do believe her, though I know she lies,⁶

9. A bliss during the experience.

1. An anti-Petrarchan sonnet. All of the details commonly attributed by other Elizabethan sonneteers to their ladies (e.g., in Spenser's *Amoretti* 64; see p. 488) are here denied to the poet's mistress.

2. Not with our pejorative sense, but simply "emanates."

3. (1) Wishes, (2) carnal desire, (3) the male and

female sexual organs, (4) one or more lovers—evidently including Shakespeare—named Will. This is one of several sonnets punning on the word.

4. I.e., do not kill with unkindness any of your wooers.

5. (1) Is utterly honest, (2) is faithful.

6. With the obvious sexual pun (as also in lines 13–14).