

## Sonnets from the Portugese

"If thou must love me, let it be for nought..."

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

If thou must love me, let it be for nought  
Except for love's sake only. Do not say  
'I love her for her smile---her look---her way  
Of speaking gently,---for a trick of thought  
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought  
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day'---  
For these things in themselves, Belovèd, may  
Be changed, or change for thee,---and love, so wrought,  
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for  
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry,---  
A creature might forget to weep, who bore  
Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!  
But love me for love's sake, that evermore  
Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity.