

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

## Sonnet 152

In loving thee thou know'st I am forsworn<sup>1</sup>,  
But thou art twice forsworn, to me love swearing,  
In act thy bed-vow<sup>2</sup> broke and new faith torn,  
In vowing new hate after new love bearing<sup>3</sup>.

5 But why of two oaths' breach<sup>4</sup> do I accuse thee,  
When I break twenty? I am perjured<sup>5</sup> most;  
For all my vows are oaths but to misuse<sup>6</sup> thee  
And all my honest faith in thee is lost,  
For I have sworn deep oaths of thy deep kindness,  
10 Oaths of thy love, thy truth<sup>7</sup>, thy constancy<sup>8</sup>,  
And, to enlighten thee<sup>9</sup>, gave eyes to blindness,  
Or made them swear against the thing they see;  
For I have sworn thee fair; more perjured I,  
To swear against the truth so foul a lie!

*(124 words)*

<sup>1</sup>**am forsworn** have broken my vow, am false – <sup>2</sup>**bed-vow** marriage vows – <sup>3</sup>**new love bearing** loving someone new – <sup>4</sup>**breach** breaking – <sup>5</sup>**perjured** false – <sup>6</sup>**misuse** deceive, tell lies about – <sup>7</sup>**truth** honesty – <sup>8</sup>**constancy** faithfulness – <sup>9</sup>**enlighten thee** make you appear beautiful