

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 10

For shame deny that thou bear'st¹ love to any,
Who for thy self art so unprovident².

Grant, if thou wilt, thou art beloved of many,
But that thou none lov'st is most evident:

5 For thou art so possessed³ with murderous hate,
That 'gainst thy self thou stick'st not⁴ to conspire,

Seeking that beauteous roof to ruinate
Which to repair⁵ should be thy chief desire.

O! change thy thought, that I may change my mind:

10 Shall hate be fairer lodged⁶ than gentle love?

Be, as thy presence is, gracious and kind,

Or to thyself at least kind-hearted⁷ prove:

Make thee another self for love of me,

That beauty still⁸ may live in thine or thee⁹.

(114 words)

¹**bear'st** feel – ²**unprovident** reckless, wasteful – ³**possessed** wickedly filled – ⁴**stick'st not** don't hesitate – ⁵**repair** maintain – ⁶**be fairer lodged** live in a more beautiful place – ⁷**kind-hearted** loving to your kin (kind) – ⁸**still** always – ⁹**thine or thee** your children or yourself