

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 136

If thy soul¹ cheque² thee that I come so near³,
Swear to thy blind⁴ soul that I was thy 'Will,'
And will, thy soul knows, is admitted there;
Thus far for love my love-suit⁵, sweet, fulfil.

5 'Will' will fulfil the treasure⁶ of thy love,
Ay, fill it full with wills, and my will one.
In things of great receipt⁷ with ease we prove
Among a number one is reckon'd none:
Then in the number let me pass untold⁸,

10 Though in thy stores' account I one must be;
For nothing hold me, so it please thee hold
That nothing me, a something sweet to thee:
Make but my name thy love, and love that still,
And then thou lovest me, for my name is 'Will.'

(124 words)

¹soul conscience – ²cheque rebuke, punish – ³I come so near I tell the truth about you, I'm too close – ⁴blind unseeing, ignorant –
⁵love-suit pleas of love, advances – ⁶treasure female sexual organ – ⁷great receipt great value, huge capacity, great importance –
⁸untold uncounted, in secret