

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 113

Since I left you, mine eye is in my mind;
And that which governs me to go about¹
Doth part his function² and is partly blind,
Seems seeing, but effectually is out³;

5 For it no form⁴ delivers to the heart
Of bird, of flower, or shape which it doth latch⁵:
Of his quick objects⁶ hath the mind no part,
Nor his own vision holds what it doth catch;
For if it see the rud'st⁷ or gentlest sight,
10 The most sweet favour or deformed'st creature,
The mountain or the sea, the day or night,
The crow, or dove, it shapes them to your feature.
Incapable of more⁸, replete⁹ with you,
My most true mind thus maketh mine eye untrue.
(118 words)

¹that which governs me to go about (my eye) – ²Doth part his function divides its purpose – ³effectually is out in effect sees wrongly – ⁴form shape – ⁵latch catch sight of – ⁶his quick objects the eye's fleetingly seen things – ⁷rud'st most vulgar – ⁸Incapable of more unable to do more – ⁹replete filled only