

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 150

O, from what power¹ hast thou this powerful might
With insufficiency² my heart to sway³?
To make me give the lie to⁴ my true sight,
And swear that brightness doth not grace⁵ the day?

5 Whence hast thou this becoming of things ill⁶,
That in the very refuse⁷ of thy deeds
There is such strength and warrantize of skill⁸
That, in my mind, thy worst all best exceeds?
Who taught thee how to make me love thee more

10 The more I hear and see just cause of hate?
O, though I love what others do abhor,
With others thou shouldst not abhor my state⁹:
If thy unworthiness raised love in me,
More worthy I to be beloved of thee.
(118 words)

¹**power** power, god, supernatural source – ²**insufficiency** defects – ³**sway** rule – ⁴**give the lie to** call a liar – ⁵**grace** make beautiful
– ⁶**becoming of things ill** power to make bad seem good – ⁷**refuse** worst elements – ⁸**warrantize of skill** authority, appeal –
⁹**state** condition (of loving you)