

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 35

No more be grieved at that which thou hast done:

Roses have thorns, and silver fountains mud:

Clouds and eclipses stain¹ both moon and sun,

And loathsome canker² lives in sweetest bud.

5 All men make faults, and even I in this,

Authorizing³ thy trespass⁴ with compare,

Myself corrupting, salving⁵ thy amiss⁶,

Excusing thy sins more than thy sins are;

For to thy sensual fault I bring in⁷ sense⁸,

10 Thy adverse party⁹ is thy advocate¹⁰,

And 'gainst myself a lawful plea commence:

Such civil war is in my love and hate,

That I an accessory¹¹ needs must be,

To that sweet thief which sourly robs from me.

(106 words)

¹**stain** dim, corrupt – ²**canker** cankerworm (which destroys the flower) – ³**Authorizing** justifying – ⁴**trespass** offence – ⁵**salving** condoning, excusing – ⁶**amiss** fault – ⁷**bring in** apply, introduce – ⁸**sense** reason – ⁹**adverse party** opponent – ¹⁰**advocate** defence lawyer – ¹¹**accessary** accomplice