

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 102

My love is strengthened, though more weak in seeming¹;

I love not less, though less the show² appear;

That love is merchandized³, whose rich esteeming⁴,

The owner's tongue doth publish every where.

5 Our love was new, and then but in the spring,

When I was wont⁵ to greet it with my lays⁶;

As Philomel in summer's front⁷ doth sing,

And stops his pipe⁸ in growth of riper days⁹:

Not that the summer is less pleasant now

10 Than when her mournful hymns did hush the night,

But that wild music burthens¹⁰ every bough,

And sweets grown common lose their dear delight.

Therefore like her, I sometime hold my tongue:

Because I would not dull¹¹ you with my song.

(117 words)

¹**seeming** appearance – ²**the show** outward signs – ³**merchandized** bought and sold, cheapened – ⁴**esteeming** value – ⁵**wont** accustomed – ⁶**lay** songs – ⁷**summer's front** early summer – ⁸**his pipe** singing – ⁹**riper days** late summer – ¹⁰**burthens** weighs down, echoes from – ¹¹**dull** bore