

Sonnet 29

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes ¹	a
I all alone beweep ² my outcast state,	b
And trouble deaf heav'n with my bootless ³ cries,	a
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,	b
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope, (5)	c
Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,	d
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope ⁴ ,	c
With what I most enjoy contented least;	d
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,	e
Haply ⁵ I think on thee, and then my state, (10)	f*
Like to the lark ⁶ at break of day arising	e
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate.	f
For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings	g
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.	g

*Yes, F rhymes with B. Shakespeare did not nail it every time.

¹ **synecdoche**: a literary device in which a part represents a whole or vice versa. Helen of Troy was "the **face** that launched a thousand ships / And burnt the topless **towers** of Ilium."

² *beweep*: cry

³ *bootless*: futile, useless

⁴ *scope*: prospects; opportunities

⁵ *haply*: by chance, on the spur of the moment

⁶ *lark*: a bird that is active in the morning