

## BM1, WiSe 2009/10, ASSIGNMENT 1 – Analysing Poetry

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together but not bound in any folder. Every assignment must include a “title-page” and the statement on plagiarism.

Please address the following four tasks and questions. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. In fairness to everybody else, any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

### 1. Communicative Situation and Topic (40 points)

What do you find out about the speaker, the addressee(s), the communicative situation? Identify the various sections of the poem and comment on the development of the theme(s) and communicative situation from one section to the next. Which aspects make it difficult to establish the communicative situation?

### 2. Figurative language (20 points)

- Identify and analyse one metaphor in the poem. (10p)
- Give examples of two other figures of speech from the poem. (10p)

### 3. Metre, rhyme-scheme, interplay (20 points)

Comment on metre and rhyme scheme.

### 4. Spot a problem. (20 points)

Briefly suggest a way to discuss this poem in connection with other poems you have read, and why such a comparison might be relevant. You may build on your response to one or several of the earlier questions.

## Sonnet I from William Percy, *Sonnets to the Fairest Coelia*. London, 1594.

Iudg'd by my goddesse doome to endlesse paine,  
Lo here I ope my sorrowes passion,  
That eu'rie sillie eye may view most plaine,  
A sentence giuen on no occasion.  
If that by chaunce they fall most fortunate,  
Within those cruell hands that did enact it,  
Say but, alas he was too passionate,  
My doome is past, nor can be now vnactit.  
So mayst thou see I was a spotlesse loue,  
And grieue withall that ere thou dealt so sore:  
Vnto remorse who goes about to moue her,  
Pursues the winged winds, and tils the shore.  
Louelie is her semblance, hard is her heart,  
Wauering is her mind, sure is her dart.

### Explanations:

The poem is given in its original spelling, be aware of the v/u distribution (v at the beginning of words, u elsewhere), of the initial I that standing where a modern J would stand, of the vv use for w. The following lexical explanations might be of further help:

1.1: *goddesse* = goddess's (gen.)

1.2: *ope* = open ——— *sorrowes* = sorrow's (gen.)

1.3: *sillie eye* =

1.5: *If that* = if ——— *chaunce* = chance

1.8: *past* = passed ——— *vnactit* = undone

1.12: *tils the shore* = proverbial: to undertake a laborious task in vain