

**1616**

**TO CELIA**

**Ben Jonson**

**Jonson, Ben (1573-1637) - English poet and dramatist. As a playwright, he stands second only to Shakespeare (who appeared as a cast member in Jonson's early play, "Every Man in his Humour"). Jonson's comedies are generally considered his best work. He was named Poet Laureate in 1619. To Celia (1616) - Paraphrased from passages in letters written by Philostratus, a late Greek rhetorician.**

**Opening lines: Drink to me only with thine eyes, / And I will pledge with mine; ...**

**TO CELIA**

Drink to me only with thine eyes,  
And I will pledge with mine;  
Or leave a kiss but in the cup  
And I'll not look for wine.  
The thirst that from the soul doth rise  
Doth ask a drink divine;  
But might I of Jove's nectar sup,  
I would not change for thine.  
I sent thee late a rosy wreath,  
Not so much honouring thee  
As giving it a hope that there  
It could not wither'd be;  
But thou thereon didst only breathe  
And sent'st it back to me;  
Since when it grows, and smells, I swear,  
Not of itself but thee!

**THE END**