

1633

DEATH BE NOT PROUD (From Divine Meditations)

John Donne

Donne, John (1572-1631) - First and greatest of the English metaphysical poets. Donne's work was popular upon its initial (posthumous) publication, but it was not until the early 20th century that he was first considered a major poet. His poems are admired for their wit, beauty, and perception. Death Be Not Proud (1633) - This sonnet is one of Donne's best-known works. Opening lines: Death be not proud, though some have called thee / Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so, ...

DEATH BE NOT PROUD

Death be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so,
For, those, whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me;
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well,
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more, Death thou shalt die.

THE END