

**1850**

**IF THOU MUST LOVE ME (From Sonnets from the Portuguese)**

***Elizabeth Barrett Browning***

**Browning, Elizabeth Barrett (1806-1861) - English poet best known for her love sonnets, particularly those from her greatest work, "Sonnets From the Portuguese." Her courtship and elopement with her future husband, Robert Browning, remains one of the literary world's most celebrated romances. If Thou Must Love Me (1850) - Opening lines: If thou must love me, let it be for nought / Except for love's sake only. Do not say ...**

**IF THOU MUST LOVE ME**

IF thou must love me, let it be for nought Except for love's sake only. Do not say "I love her for her smile- her look- her way Of speaking gently,- for a trick of thought That falls in well with mine, and certes brought A sense of pleasant ease on such a day" For these things in themselves, Beloved, may Be changed, or change for thee,- and love, so wrought, May be unwrought so. Neither love me for Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry, A creature might forget to weep, who bore Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!

But love me for love's sake, that evermore Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity.

**THE END**