

1819

I CRY YOUR MERCY PITY LOVE! AYE LOVE!

John Keats

Keats, John (1795-1821) - Widely regarded as the most talented of the English romantic poets, Keats, whose work was poorly received during his lifetime, could not have foreseen his later recognition. Ironically, he wrote for his own epitaph: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." I cry your mercy- pitylove!- aye love! (1819) - Written for Fanny Brawne, Keats' fiancée. Opening lines: I cry your mercy- pity- love!- aye love! / Merrciful love that tantalizes not, .

I CRY YOUR MERCY

I cry your mercy- pity- love!- aye, love!
Merciful love that tantalizes not,
One-thoughted, never-wandering, guileless love,
Unmask'd, and being seen- without a blot!
O! let me have thee whole,- all- all- be mine!
That shape, that fairness, that sweet minor zest
Of love, your kiss,- those hands, those eyes divine,
That warm, white, lucent, million-pleasured breast,
Yourself- your soul- in pity give me all,
Withhold no atom's atom or I die,
Or living on perhaps, your wretched thrall,
Forget, in the mist of idle misery,
Life's purposes,- the palate of my mind
Losing its gust, and my ambition blind! - -

THE END