

1633

LOVE'S USURY

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. Love's Usury (1633) Opening lines: For every hour that thou wilt spare me now, / I will allow, / Usurious God of Love, twenty to thee,

LOVES USURY

For every hour that thou wilt spare me now, I will allow, Usurious God of Love, twenty to thee, When with my brown, my grey hairs equal be; Till then, Love, let my body reign, and let Me travel, sojourn, snatch, plot, have, forget, Resume my last year's relict: think that yet We had never met. Let me think any rival's letter mine, And at next nine Keep midnight's promise; mistake by the way The maid, and tell the Lady of that delay; Only let me love none, no, not the sport; From country grass, to comfitures of Court, Or city's quelque-choses, let report My mind transport.

This bargain's good; if when I'am old, I be Inflamed by thee, If thine own honour, or my shame, or pain, Thou covet, most at that age thou shalt gain.

Do thy will then, then subject and degree, And fruit of love, Love, I submit to thee; Spare me till then, I'll bear it, though she be One that loves me.

THE END