**61. ‘Benedetto sia ’l giorno, et ’l mese, et l’anno,’ - Petrarch**

Blessed be the day, and the month, and the year,

and the season, and the time, and the hour, and the moment,

and the beautiful country, and the place where I was joined

to the two beautiful eyes that have bound me:

and blessed be the first sweet suffering

that I felt in being conjoined with Love,

and the bow, and the shafts with which I was pierced,

and the wounds that run to the depths of my heart.

Blessed be all those verses I scattered

calling out the name of my lady,

and the sighs, and the tears, and the passion:

and blessed be all the sheets

where I acquire fame, and my thoughts,

that are only of her, that no one else has part of.

# **Sonnet CXVI - Shakespeare**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
     If this be error and upon me proved,  
     I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

**Prepare answers to the following questions, to be used in a Socratic Circle.**

1. How would you summarize the main ideas of Petrarch's sonnet?
2. In what ways does Shakespeare's sonnet characterize true love?
3. Both sonnets focus on worldly romantic love.  How might the focus of these sonnets have been different if they had been written during the Middle Ages? During modern times?

**Next, please write two of your own Level II or III questions, to be asked in the Circle.**  (Feel free to compare or contrast the poems above; to reference other ideas/philosophy/poetry/music about love throughout time, including modern day; or to bring in any other outside knowledge related to poetry, Shakespeare, or Petrarch.)

**1.**

**2.**