

## **John Donne**

### **Sonnet 10**

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for thou are 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.

### **Reading**

Students should read the poem in class to know the meaning of the poem. Through this reading they can be able to know wit and conceit of metaphysical poetry as well as the general themes, structure and form are manipulated so as to find the accurate meaning of the poem.

### **Themes**

Death  
Man Challenges death  
Spirituality

### **Structure**

The structure of "Death, be not proud" consists of three units of four lines (quatrains) and a final unrhyming couplet.

### **Forms and Devices**

Donne uses his characteristic metaphysical wit in the choice of structure, poetic techniques, diction, sounds, meter, irony, and paradox.

### **Discussion**

Class discussion which includes how students understand metaphysical conceit and wit besides the religious meaning of Donne's poetry.