

**William Butler Yeats, "The Sorrow of Love" (1892ff.)**

Text and apparatus from *The Variorum Edition of the Poems of W.B. Yeats*, P. Allt and R.K. Alspach (eds.), Macmillan 1957, pp. 119–120.

Note (via the apparatus below) the many revisions to the poem; the most extensive changes (and, as it turned out, the final ones) first appeared in Yeats' 1925 collection *Early Poems and Stories* (#61).

- 1     The brawling of a sparrow in the eaves,
- 2     The brilliant moon and all the milky sky,
- 3     And all that famous harmony of leaves,
- 4     Had blotted out man's image and his cry.
  
- 5     A girl arose that had red mournful lips
- 6     And seemed the greatness of the world in tears,
- 7     Doomed like Odysseus and the labouring ships
- 8     And proud as Priam murdered with his peers;
  
- 9     Arose, and on the instant clamorous eaves,
- 10    A climbing moon upon an empty sky,
- 11    And all that lamentation of the leaves,
- 12    Could but compose man's image and his cry.

PRINTINGS 6, 9, 12, 14, 18, 21, 23, 24(1), 30, 32, 45, 47, 51, 52, 55, 56, 61, 64, 65, 69, 73, 79, 80, 88, 99.

TEXT

1. The quarrel of the sparrows in . . . ,
2. The full round moon and the star-laden sky,
3. And the loud song of the ever-singing leaves (leaves, 9–56) 6–56.
4. Had hid away earth's old and weary cry.
5. And then you came with those red . . . lips,
6. And with you came the whole of the world's tears, (tears 30–56) 6–56.
7. And all the sorrows (trouble 12–56) of her labouring ships, 6–56.
8. And all burden of her myriad years. 6; And all the burden (trouble 12–56) of her myriad years. 9–56.
9. And now the sparrows warring in the eaves,
10. The crumbling (curd-pale 9–56) moon, the white stars in the sky,
11. And the loud chanting (chaunting 9–56) of the unquiet leaves,
12. Are shaken with earth's old and weary cry. 6–56.