

English Literature - Poetry

A Complaint by William Wordsworth

There is a change - and I am poor;
Your love hath been, nor long ~~before~~ ago,
A fountain at my fond heart's door,
Whose only business was to flow;
And flow it did; not taking heed
Of its own bounty, or my need.

past tense = narrator is looking back
narrator addresses their lover directly = personal
semi colon indicates the explanation
metaphor of rushing water = fast, bountiful love
↳ powerful + forceful

What happy moments did I count

Blest was I then in bliss above!

Now, for that consecrated fount

Of murmuring, sparkling, living love,

What have I? Shall I dare to tell?

fountain metaphor replaced by well
↳ relationship changed

A comfortless and hidden well.

A well of love - it may be deep -

I trust it is, - and never dry:

What matter? if the waters sleep

In silence and obscurity.

- Such change, and at the ~~door~~ very door

Of my fond heart, hath made me poor.

cyclical structure
↳ acts as a conclusion

bringing reader back to the present ∴ sense of loss

door is a part of the home
= personal / close

Romantic poets (late 1700s, early 1800s)

← Wordsworth (1770 - 1850)

- emotion is more important
- reason is less important
- often used power of nature to express feelings