

Complete Poems



“The first among my friends.”

Dante Alighieri

“He has more individual life of his own than belongs
to any of his predecessors.”

Dante Gabriel Rossetti

“Guido is the first Italian poet worthy of the name.”

Francesco de Sanctis

“No psychologist of the emotions is more keen in his
understanding, more precise in his expression.”

Ezra Pound

“With all his gravity, he has the secret of lightness.”

Italo Calvino

Complete Poems

Guido Cavalcanti

Translated by Anthony Mortimer



ONEWORLD
CLASSICS

ONEWORLD CLASSICS LTD
London House
243-253 Lower Mortlake Road
Richmond
Surrey TW9 2LL
United Kingdom
www.oneworldclassics.com

First published by Oneworld Classics Limited in 2010
English translation, Notes and Extra Material © Anthony Mortimer, 2010

**This book is published with the support of the Italian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs.**

Printed in Great Britain by MPG Books

ISBN: 978-1-84749-140-4

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission of the publisher. This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be resold, lent, hired out or otherwise circulated without the express prior consent of the publisher.

Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Complete Poems | 1 |
| <i>Note on the Text</i> | 134 |
| <i>Notes</i> | 134 |
| | |
| Extra Material | 147 |
| <i>Guido Cavalcanti's Life</i> | 149 |
| <i>Cavalcanti, Dante and the Dolce Stil Novo</i> | 151 |
| <i>The Poetry</i> | 154 |
| <i>Cavalcanti in English</i> | 159 |
| <i>The Forms of Cavalcanti's Poetry</i> | 162 |
| <i>Select Bibliography</i> | 163 |
| | |
| Appendix | 165 |
| <i>Cino da Pistoia's Poem to Cavalcanti</i> | 167 |
| <i>Documents Relating to the Life of Cavalcanti</i> | 171 |

For Richard Waswo

Complete Poems

I

Fresca rosa novella,
 piacente primavera,
 per prata e per rivera
 gaiamente cantando,
 vostro fin presio mando – a la verdura.

Lo vostro presio fino
 in gio' si rinovelli
 da grandi e da zitelli
 per ciascuno camino;
 e cantin[n]e gli auselli
 ciascuno in suo latino
 da sera e da matino
 su li verdi arbuscelli.

10

Tutto lo mondo canti,
 po' che lo tempo vène,
 sì come si conviene,
 vostr'altezza presiata:
 ché siete angelicata – criatura.

Angelica sembranza
 in voi, donna, riposa:
 Dio, quanto avventurosa
 fue la mia disianza!

20

Vostra cera gioiosa,
 poi che passa e avanza
 natura e costumanza,
 ben è mirabil cosa.

Fra lor le donne dea
 vi chiaman, come sète;
 tanto adorna parete
 ch'eo non saccio contare;
 e chi poria pensare – oltra natura?

30

I

Fresh-blossoming new rose,
 Pleasant delightful spring,
 Gaily I rise and sing,
 Giving praise to your worth
 Throughout the green earth in meadow and pasture.

In joy let your fine worth
 Be praised anew by all,
 Proclaimed by great and small,
 Along each country path;
 And may the sweet birds now, 10
 Each in his proper tongue,
 Morning and evening sing
 Your lauds upon the bough.

Let the whole world sing out
 Your high-exalted state;
 The season now dictates
 This as the fitting time
 To hail you as sublime angelic creature.

Angelic form, I say,
 Lady, resides in you: 20
 God, how the luck was true
 That turned my love your way!

Your blithe and joyful air
 Surpasses and transcends
 Custom and nature's bounds,
 Miraculously fair.

Among the ladies called
 A goddess, as you are,
 So perfect you appear
 That all my words fall short; 30
 And who can make his thought go beyond nature?

Oltra natura umana
vostra fina piassenza
fece Dio, per essenza
che voi foste sovrana:
per che vostra parvenza
ver' me non sia luntana;
or non mi sia villana
la dolce provedenza!

E se vi pare oltraggio
ch'ad amarvi sia dato,
non sia da voi blasmato:
ché solo Amor mi sforza,
contra cui non val forza – né misura.

40

Beyond our human nature
God made your lovely presence
To prove your very essence
That of a sovereign creature.

Let not your countenance
Ever be far from me;
Show no discourtesy,
O my sweet providence!

And if you find excess
In that I love you so,
Still blame me not; for know
That Love compels my course,
Against whom neither force avails nor measure.

40

II

Avete 'n vo' li fior' e la verdura
 e ciò che luce ed è bello a vedere;
 risplende più che sol vostra figura:
 chi vo' non vede, ma' non pò valere.
 In questo mondo non ha creatura
 sì piena di bieltà né di piacere;
 e chi d'amor si teme, lu' assicura
 vostro bel vis' a tanto 'n sé volere.
 Le donne che vi fanno compagnia
 assa' mi piaccion per lo vostro amore;
 ed i' le prego per lor cortesia
 che qual più può più vi faccia onore
 ed aggia cara vostra signoria,
 perché di tutte siete la migliore.

10

II

In you the flowers are and all things green,
Whatever shines and is most fair to view;
Resplendently your face outbraves the sun:
No man has worth who does not look on you.
Throughout the world no creature can be seen
So full of beauty, of such comely hue;
If anyone fears love, your glance alone
Rouses his courage to desire anew.
The ladies that are in your company,
Thanks to the love I bear you, please me well; 10
And thus I bid them, in their courtesy,
That whosoever has more power and skill
Should honour and most prize your sovereignty,
Because you are the noblest of them all.

III

Biltà di donna e di saccente core
e cavalieri armati che sien genti;
cantar d'augelli e ragionar d'amore;
adorni legni 'n mar forte correnti;
aria serena quand'apar l'albore
e bianca neve scender senza venti;
rivera d'acqua e prato d'ogni fiore;
oro, argento, azzuro 'n ornamenti:
ciò passa la beltate e la valenza
de la mia donna e 'l su' gentil coraggio,
sì che rasembra vile a chi ciò guarda;
e tanto più d'ogn'altr' ha canoscenza
quanto lo ciel de la terra è maggio.
A simil di natura ben non tarda.

10

III

A woman's beauty and a sage's heart,
Knights clad in armour and nobility,
Discourse of love, and birds that sing their part,
And tall ships sailing swiftly on the sea;
The calmness in the air when dawn gleams white,
Snow falling softly on a windless day,
Clear-flowing streams and flowering meadows bright,
Silver and gold and lapis lazuli:
Such things give way before my lady's grace,
Her beauty, gentle heart and precious worth 10
That make whatever else is seen look base;
In knowledge she exceeds all other minds
Even as heaven is greater than the earth.
Good is not slow in seeking its own kind.

IV

Chi è questa che vèn, ch'ogn'om la mira,
 che fa tremar di chiaritate l'âre
 e mena seco Amor, sì che parlare
 null'omo pote, ma ciascun sospira?
 O Deo, che sembra quando li occhi gira!
 dical' Amor, ch'i' nol savria contare:
 cotanto d'umiltà donna mi pare
 ch'ogn'altra ver' di lei i' la chiam' ira.
 Non si poria contar la sua piagenza,
 ch'a le' s'inchin' ogni gentil vertute,
 e la beltate per sua dea la mostra.
 Non fu sì alta già la mente nostra
 e non si pose 'n noi tanta salute
 che propiamente n'aviàn canoscenza.

10

IV

Who comes this way, that all men stand and gaze,
Who gives a trembling brightness to the air,
And leads Love with her so that no one there
Can speak a word, but all must melt in sighs?
O God, the radiance of those glancing eyes,
Beyond what I can say, let Love declare:
All other women seem but fretful care
Before this lady's modest gracious ways.
There is no tongue that can describe her grace,
Before her all the noble virtues bend, 10
Beauty's divinity made manifest.
But we were never granted such great bliss,
Nor was our mind so raised as to pretend
To knowledge of her as she truly is.

V

Li mie' foll' occhi, che prima guardaro
vostra figura piena di valore,
fuor quei che di voi, donna, m'acusaro
nel fero loco ove ten corte Amore,
e mantinente avanti lui mostraro
ch'io era fatto vostro servidore:
per che sospiri e dolor mi pigliaro,
vedendo che temenza avea lo core.
Menârmi tosto, senza riposanza,
in una parte là 'v'i' trovai gente
che ciascun si doleva d'Amor forte.
Quando mi vider, tutti con pietanza
dissermi: "Fatto se' di tal servente,
che mai non déi sperare altro che morte."

10

V

My foolish eyes that first looked on your face
And knew it full of worthiness and might
Indicted me as yours in that fell place,
My lady, where Love holds his cruel court:
And in his presence quickly proved their case
That as your bonds slave I was hither brought;
Then sighs and sorrows seized on me apace,
Seeing how fear already held my heart.
Without respite, they promptly haled me off
To where I found a host of grieving men, 10
Each loud lamenting the strong pains of love.
When they caught sight of me, with pitying breath
All said: "You have become the slave of one
From whom you can expect nothing but death."

VI

Deh, spiriti miei, quando mi vedete
con tanta pena, come non mandate
fuor della mente parole adornate
di pianto, dolorose e sbigottite?
Deh, voi vedete che 'l core ha ferite
di sguardo e di piacer e d'umiltate:
deh, i' vi priego che voi 'l consolate
che son da lui le sue virtù partite.
I' veggo a lui spirito apparire
alto e gentile e di tanto valore
che fa le sue virtù tutte fuggire.
Deh, i' vi priego che deggiate dire
a l'alma trista, che parl' in dolore,
com'ella fu e fie sempre d'Amore.

10

Top 100 Poems. Since 2006, Family Friend Poems has been a showcase of Popular Poems by Amateur, Contemporary and Famous Poets. These poems express loving, healing and touching feelings that we all can relate to. We now have over 8,000 published poems. We feature poems about all life's experiences and for all occasions. The list of most popular poems is curated using a variety of metrics to showcase our best poems. We consider ratings, shares, and comments. The complete poems. Robert Southwell. S.J. for the first time fully collected and collated with the original and early editions and MSS. And enlarged with hitherto unprinted and inedited poems from MSS. At Stonyhurst College, Lancashire Half-complete poems from famous poets and best half-complete poems to feel good. Most beautiful half-complete poems ever written. Read all poems for half-complete. Best Half-complete Poems: 1 / 2. Next half-complete poem ».

Half Smile/Half Complete Sadness - Poem by Kayla Martinez. Autoplay next video. I try to be the best friend I can, But you're too stubborn to let me in. Complete Poems by Marianne Moore 2,946 ratings, 4.02 average rating, 82 reviews. Complete Poems Quotes Showing 1-30 of 39. "We do not admire what we cannot understand." - Marianne Moore, Complete Poems. 1146 likes. Like.

"If we can't be cordial to these creatures' fleece, I think that we deserve to freeze." - Marianne Moore, Complete Poems. tags: animal-cruelty, animal-rights, fur. 30 likes. Like.

"I am hard to disgust, but a pretentious poet can do it." - Marianne Moore, Complete Poems. Unpublished Poems (1935). The appearance of Bolts of Melodj (1945), from text prepared by MIs. Todd and her daughter, Mill-cent Todd Bingham, virtually completed publication of all the Dickinson poetry, and marked a new era in textual fidelity. The text for this edition of The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson reproduces solely and completely that of the 1955 Variorum edition, but intended as a reading text, it selects but one form of each poem.