**Holy Sonnets: Batter my heart, three-person'd God**

BY [JOHN DONNE](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/john-donne)

Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you

As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;

That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend

Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.

I, like an usurp'd town to another due,

Labor to admit you, but oh, to no end;

Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,

But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.

Yet dearly I love you, and would be lov'd fain,

But am betroth'd unto your enemy;

Divorce me, untie or break that knot again,

Take me to you, imprison me, for I,

Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,

Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

1.What is unusual about this poem?

2. Pick out all the features you can (eg conceits, paradoxes etc.)

3. Which of them also feature in the *Songs and Sonnets*? Give examples if you can.

4. How do you account for your answer to the first part of question 3?

5. Now read the handout on Donne’s religious and secular poetry.