

12

I would in that sweet bosom be
(O sweet it is and fair it is!)
Where no rude wind might visit me.
Because of sad austerities
I would in that sweet bosom be.

I would be ever in that heart
(O soft I knock and soft entreat her!)
Where only peace might be my part.
Austerities were all the sweeter
So I were ever in that heart.

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Notes

This was No. 6 in the 1907 edition.

This is yet another of Ellmann's 'Nora' poems. It was entitled 'A Wish' when first printed in September 1904 in a journal called *The Speaker*.

'Her smooth round breast' of the previous lyric has become 'that sweet bosom'; the tone is becoming gradually more sexualised as both the cycle and the liaison move towards climax.

The repeated use of 'that', as Tindall remarks, creates a distancing effect that is at somewhat odds with the ostensible theme of desired union.

Note the brackets, exclamation mark and repetition of 'sweet' in L. 2.

The winds from earlier in the cycle – 'night' (No.3), 'gay' (No. 8) and 'May' (No. 9) – have become 'rude'; the scatological is never far away in Joyce.

Despite the positive representation of the Beloved, austerity and a lack of peace are the motors of this poem.