

## 28

Gentle lady, do not sing  
Sad songs about the end of love;  
Lay aside sadness and sing  
How love that passes is enough.

Sing about the long deep sleep  
Of lovers that are dead, and how  
In the grave all love shall sleep.  
Love is aweary now.

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### Notes

This was No. 28 in the 1907 edition.

Singing – featuring so positively in the earlier part of the suite – is re-invoked in a very different light; the Beloved is requested to sing not about the end of the love, but about the inevitability of the end of love, which is quite a different thing.

Maturity and stoicism have overtaken youth and passion; reality has overtaken dreams. Love is tired and heading for the grave.

‘Aweary’ – archaic poetic usage; does it imply over-familiarity or impatience?

The ‘long deep sleep’ here recalls ‘love’s deep slumber’ from No. 19.

Compare the reference to ‘the grave’ here with Andrew Marvell’s similar sentiment in ‘To His Coy Mistress’ from the mid-seventeenth century: ‘The grave’s a fine and private place / But none, I think do there embrace.’