

Can she excuse my wrongs

First Booke of Songes, 1597, 1613

Piano part loosely based on lute tablature

John Dowland

♩ = 80

Voice

Piano

Can she ex - cuse my wrongs with vir - tues cloak?
Are those clear fires which va - nish in - to smoke?

5

Shall I call her good when she proves un - kind? No, no, where
Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find? Cold love is

10

shadows do for bo - dies stand, thou may'st be a - bus'd if
like to words writ - ten on sand, or to bub - bles which on

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thy sight be dim. Wilt thou be thus a - bu - sed still, see-ing that she will
the wa - ter swim.

¹Lute part has B flat in 1597 version, amended to G in 1613 edition

2
20

right thee never if thou canst not o'ercome her will, thy love will be thus fruitless e - ver.

Was I so base that I might not aspire
 Unto those high joys which she holds from me?
 As they are high, so high is my desire,
 If she this deny what can granted be?
 If she will yield to that which reason is,
 It is reasons will that love should be so just,
 Dear make me happy still by granting this,
 Or cut off delays if that die I must.
 Better a thousand times to die
 Than for to live thus still tormented,
 Dear but remember it was I
 Who for thy sake did die contented.