

= Sonnet 102 =

Sonnet 102 is one of the 154 sonnets written by English playwright and poet William Shakespeare . It is one of the Fair Youth sonnets , in which Shakespeare writes of an unnamed youth with whom the poet is enamored . Sonnet 102 is among a series of seemingly connected sonnets , from Sonnet 100 to Sonnet 103 , in which the poet speaks of a silence between his Muse and himself . The exact date of writing is unknown , and there is contention among scholars about when they were written . Paul Hammond among other scholars believes that sonnets 61 @-@ 103 were written primarily during the early 1590s , and then being edited or added to later , during the early 1600s (decade) . Regardless of date of writing , it was published later along with the rest of the sonnets of the 1609 Quarto .

In the sonnet , the poet writes of why he has stopped showering his muse with flowery praise and adoration . In his analysis of Shakespeare 's Sonnets , David West suggests that the sequence of sonnets 100 @-@ 103 and the silence described are a response to the infidelity of the Fair Youth in the Rival Poet sequence of sonnets (78 @-@ 86) , which has caused a rift between the poet and his Muse . He writes of how immediately following the Rival Poet sonnets , the Poet begins to speak of his lover being false and having forsaken him . West claims that this ultimately culminates in sonnets 100 @-@ 103 , where the Poet expresses his regret over what has transpired .

= = Paraphrase = =

In this sonnet , the speaker is explaining that though he has been writing poetry in adoration of his muse less frequently , his feelings for him are as strong as they 've ever been . Gwynne Blakemore Evans believes that this is an attempt to apologize for a period of silence . The poet goes on to explain that his silence is simply him not wanting to cheapen his praise by making it common . Below is a paraphrase of the sonnet written in prose :

My love is stronger than it 's ever been , even though my love may seem to have diminished . I do not love less , even though I don 't show it as much . Love becomes a commodity when it 's spoken of too highly and too frequently . I used to sing my praises very frequently when our love was new , like the nightingale which sings in the summer and stops at summers end . It 's not that the summer is less pleasant for the nightingale , it 's simply that the songs of other birds fill the air , and when things become common , they become less dear . It 's for this reason , I , like the nightingale , have stopped writing . I do not wish my poems to become boring .

= = Structure = =

Sonnet 102 is an English or Shakespearean sonnet . The English sonnet has three quatrains , followed by a final rhyming couplet . It follows the typical rhyme scheme of the form abab cdcd efef gg and is composed in iambic pentameter , a type of poetic metre based on five pairs of metrically weak / strong syllabic positions . The 8th line exemplifies a regular iambic pentameter :

x / x / x / x / x /

And stops her pipe in growth of riper days . (102 @.@ 8)

The 1st and 3rd lines have a final extrametrical syllable or feminine ending :

x / x / x / x / x / (x)

My love is strengthened , though more weak in seeming ; (102 @.@ 1)