



The title of the poem collection where *How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.* is included is called “Sonnets from the Portuguese.” This title gave the impression that the sonnets are translations of a Portuguese original. By devising such title, Elizabeth Barrett Browning fully avoided the scandal that comes with being a woman poet, who in particular would write intimately about her personal romantic relationships. The poem is also known as Sonnet 43.

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

By Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height

My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight

For the ends of being and ideal grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's

Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.

I love thee freely, as men strive for right;

I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use

In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose

With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,

Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,

I shall but love thee better after death.