**It is the Constant Image of your Face -**Literature Notes

**Please note that the information given on this poem is not meant to replace any material given in the classroom setting. It is a very BASIC giude to enable a literal understanding of the poem. Metaphorical interpretations should be sought in the classroom.**

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| **The physical structure of this poem has been altered from the original layout in the text.**   It is the 3.constant image of your face framed in my hands as you knelt before my chair the 4.grave attention of 1.your eyes surveying me amid my 5.world of knives that stays with me, 1.perennially accuses and convicts me of 2.heart's-treachery: and neither you nor I can plead excuses for you, you know, can claim no loyalty -  my land takes precedence of all my loves.  Yet I beg mitigation, pleading guilty for you, my dear, accomplice of my heart made, without words, 6.such blackmail with your beauty and proffered me such dear protectiveness that I confess without remorse or shame my still-fresh treason to1.my country and hope that she, my other, dearest love will pardon freely, not attaching blame being your mistress (or your match) in tenderness.  Brutus, D. 'It is the Constant Image of your Face' in  A World of Prose. Edited by Mark McWatt and Hazel Simmonds McDonald. Pearson Education Ltd, 2005. | **This is the OPINION of one individual, which might not coincide with the views of others.**  LITERAL MEANING The persona reflects on the image of some-one he cares for. This love interest accused him, with their eyes, of breaking their heart. The persona admits that both of them (he and the love interest) can make no excuses for his behaviour because the love interest does not take precedence over his land, or country. Despite this fact, the persona begs for mercy, pleading guilty for being seduced by his love interest's beauty. This person protects him dearly and he admits that, as a result of this, he has committed treason against his country. He hopes that his country, his other dearest love, will pardon him because he loves both his country and his love interest.  Picture |

LITERARY DEVICES  
1. PERSONIFICATION

* Lines 4, 6-7: The love interest's eyes constantly accuses and convicts the persona. This device highlights the extent to which the persona has hurt this person.
* Lines 18-20: The persona hopes that his country, his other dearest love, will forgive him for the treasonous act of loving another. This highlights the patriotism that defines the persona's relationship to his country.

2. OXYMORON  
The term heart's-treachery implies that the heart, something so vital and indicative of love, has committed a terrible crime. It highlights the heartbreak that the persona has caused his love interest.   
  
IMPORTANT WORD/ PHRASES  
3. 'constant image'  
This implies that the persona constantly, or always, remembers his love interest's face. It emphasizes the guilt he feels in relation to this person.  
4. 'grave attention'  
The love interest's eyes display grave attention. The word grave implies intensely serious, so this person is truly hurt.  
5. 'world of knives'  
A knife inflicts pain and destroys. The persona, therefore, is identifying his world with causing pain.  
6. 'such blackmail with your beauty'  
To blackmail someone is to have something over them that puts their will in your control. The love interest's beauty has captivated the persona in such a way that he betrays his country with this person.   
  
MOOD/ ATMOSPHERE  
The [mood](http://www.bulbsoup.com/ln-comprehension.html)of the poem is reflective. The persona is thinking about his two loves and how he is torn between the two.  
   
TONE  
The [tone](http://www.bulbsoup.com/ln-comprehension.html) of the poem is sadness and guilt. The persona is guilt ridden over this love triangle and sadness permeates the words that he uses to describe it.  
  
THEMATIC CATEGORY  
Love, guilt, patriotism, places, desires/ dreams