

If love now reigned (I)

Verse 1

If love now reign'd as it hath been
And were rewarded as it hath sin',

Verse 2

Noble men then would sure ensearch
All ways whereby they might it reach;

Verse 3

But envy reign'th with such disdain
And causeth lovers outwardly to refrain,

Verse 4

Which puts them to more and more
Inwardly most grievous and sore;

Verse 5

The fault in whom I cannot set;
But let them tell which love doth get.

Verse 6

To lovers I put now sure this case:
Which of their loves doth get them grace?

Verse 7

And unto them which doth it know
Better than do I, I think it so.