

**Elegy: To his Mistress Going to Bed**

5: **heaven's zone** Orion's belt ("zone" comes from the Greek for "girdle")

11: **busk** Corset

21: **Mahomet** i.e., Muhammad

36: **Atalanta's balls** in Greek myth, golden apples used by Hippomenes to distract this famously fleet woman in a footrace

45: **white linen** white was worn in penance

48: **covering** cf. the meaning of "cover" in connection with stallions and mares

**The Flea**

1: **mark** notice, indicate, distinguish

**The Good Morrow**

4: **snorted** snored

4: **seven sleepers' den** a cave in Ephesus said to have sheltered seven young men from persecution for almost two hundred years during the era of early Christianity

19: **not mixed equally** cf. Scholastic philosophical belief that mutable, mortal matter was made of imperfectly mixed elements

**Song ("Go, and catch a falling star")**

2: **mandrake** forked root, associated with fertility

**The Sun Rising**

6: **prentices** apprentices

7: **court-huntsmen** King James I (reigned 1603–1625) was known for his love of the hunt

17: **Indias of spice and mine** i.e., the East Indies and the West Indies ("mine": here, gold)

**The Canonization**

2: **Take you a course, get you a place** find a career, obtain an appointment at court

7: **Or...or** Either...or

7: **real** pronounced as two syllables, refers to the Spanish coin

7: **stamped face** i.e., on coins

**15: plaguy bill** lists of the deaths by plague

**42: spies** i.e., spyglasses

### The Triple Fool

**10: numbers** musical harmony or rhythm; metrical feet or verses

### Love's Growth

**18: Stars by the sun are not enlarged, but shown** refers to the idea that the stars' light was borrowed from the sun

### A Valediction: Of Weeping

**Valediction** a farewell

**9: divers** different

**20: Draw** as the moon pulls ("draws") the tides

### A Nocturnal upon St. Lucy's Day

**St. Lucy's Day** the vigil of this saint's day was the winter solstice; the Nocturnal was the midnight service in the Catholic church

**6: hydroptic** thirsty, like someone sick

**15: quintessence** the fifth element, which alchemists sought to extract ("express")

**20: limbeck** alembic (alchemical vessel)

**39: the Goat** the sun enters Capricorn at the solstice

### A Valediction: forbidding Mourning

**9: Moving of th' earth** earthquakes were thought to be portents

**11: trepidation of the spheres** in Ptolemaic astronomy, some of the celestial spheres vibrate

**13: sublunary** beneath the moon, earthly

**26: twin compasses** the legs of the compass (instrument for drawing circles)

### The Ecstasy

**Ecstasy** *ek-stasis*, being put out of place, insanity, movement of soul out of body

**27: concoction** alchemical distillation

**56: dross...allay** the two words contrast weakening and strengthening mixture in metal ("allay": alloy)

**The Funeral**

**6: Vicerory** typographical error in Oxford edition; read “Viceroy”

**9: sinewy thread** anatomists had shown how the nervous system connects the brain to the body

**14: except she meant** unless she intended

**The Relic**

**3: that woman-head** that woman-hood, that characteristic of women

**Holy Sonnet: “What if this present were the world’s last night”**

**12: rigor** strictness (opposite of “pity”)