Textual analysis: “ A valediction forbidding mourning”

The language used by J.D. right from the 1st stanza displays his high level of culture.

There is a physical rendering of death; the poet say the breath goes away.

While talking about death he speaks also the spiritual side when he says *souls*.

The attention is immediately focused on *virtuous men* not common ordinary people who are only interested in the physical aspect of love.

Just from the 2nd stanza which repeats the alternate rhyme of the 1st (*noise-says*) the parody of the convention of courtly love poetry is clear in the hyperbolic *tear-flood* and *sigh tempest.* Also the invitation *let us melt* underlines the use of exaggeration.

Speaking of their love the poet uses the word *profanation* which recalls the religious code, something secret. In addition the contrast of the 1st stanza *(virtuous men)* repeated by the expression *the laity.*

It follows that J.D. describes his love as religious and those who don’t share it, the lay men that is uninitiated. The hyperbolic structure of the first two stanzas is again there in stanza three when parody is even reinforced. Here the trepidation caused by one of the two lovers’ departure is compared to the shock created by an earthquake which brings for *arms and fears.*

The 2nd part of the song starts reaffirming the difference between dole sublunary lovers and the poet and his lover (*but we by a …).* The idea J.D. has of his love is that not even he and his lady know not what it is like they are both sure of the spiritual love that unites them because they are *entreasured of the mind*. As a result they care-less in missing eyes, lips and hands.

The argumentation of the poet is very well expressed by the connector of the 6th stanza *therefore.* J.D. says that they souls, and this is the way he speaks about love, which he considers one single thing (*which are one)* do not bear a breach because their distance is actually to be considered an expansion. To the purpose he uses the simile (*like gold to aery…).*

The poet goes on saying that the lady’s foot which sits in the centre follows the roaming of the man’s. The poem concludes when the poet says that his beloved shall behave exactly as the fixed foot of the compass because her fairness makes the circle *just* (right, correct) and therefore *makes me end where I begun*.