My Mistress’ Eyes

The sonnet belongs to the second section of the Shakespeare’s sonnet and it is addressed to the “dark lady”. Just consecrating the title the intelligent reader understands that the poet tells about a woman.

Considering the layout the intelligent reader understands that the sonnet follows the Elizabethan structure and it does not follow the Petrarch’s one. It is organize into three quatrain and a couple of rhyming. The three quatrains presents a problem or situation and the couplet solves or summarises the problem. The rhyme scheme is: in the first quatrain ABAB, in the second quatrain CDCD, in the third quatrain EFEF and in the couplet is GG.

Taking into consideration the denotative level the intelligent reader understands that the sonnet begins to describe things in nature that are commonly perceived as beautiful and that this woman has not. The poet tells that the nature is much better than his woman. In the second quatrain the poet repeats the same comparison, this time he compares the same thing and once more his mistress is the loser, because her “cheeks are less” beautiful “damask roses”, and he also adds that “perfumers” are much better than her “breath”. In the third quatrain introduced some different, because besides realizing what the poet is telling us in different in the previous quatrain: all the same he loves to listen her speaks. The poet introduced something totally different from the traditional courtly love convention in poetry .In the rhyme couplet the poet tell that despite the woman does not have even one of the qualities of the poetic canon, he loves her. He says that he likes listening to his cover speak even if his perfectly aware that music is much more pleasant to listen to the paradoxes that he knows. In the end of the third quatrain the speak voice confesses he has never say a “goddess go”, but he knows that his lady is “treads on the ground”.

Taking into consideration the connotative level, the intelligent reader understands that in the line three and four the poet uses an alliteration of the letter “w”. In the second line of the second quatrain the poet uses the words “red and white” to refers to the “War of the Roses”. In the end line the poet uses the word “she” to refers to the woman.

In short, in this sonnet the poet wants to turn something up side down and in this case he wants to turn the canons courteous up side down.