## What happens?

Thoughts of the beloved become so abundant that the speaker calls for real presence.

## The main idea

Imagination nourishes love but must give way when it conceals the real person it desires.

## 1. “my thoughts do twine and bud”

Method: Extended plant metaphor

Thoughts grow vigorously, but their abundance risks concealing the beloved’s distinct reality.

## 2. “I will not have my thoughts instead of thee”

Method: Early argumentative turn

The refusal redirects the poem away from imagining the beloved and towards a real encounter.

## 3. “Renew thy presence;”

Method: Imperative

The speaker actively asks for the beloved’s return.

## 4. “I am too near thee.”

Method: Reversal

The final intimacy transforms the meaning of the opening declaration.

## Form and structure

A 14-line Petrarchan sonnet with an early argumentative turn and an extended plant metaphor.

## Development, voice and tone

Thoughts grow — Exuberant. The speaker’s imagining spreads so vigorously that it begins to hide its object.

Turn towards presence — Urgent and commanding. A qualification redirects the poem from fantasy towards an encounter.

Final closeness — Joyful. Physical presence makes the opening activity of imagining unnecessary.

## Context

From Sonnets from the Portuguese (1850), the poem gives a woman an assertive voice in the expression of desire.

## Comparison links

Love’s Philosophy: desire for closeness. Letters From Yorkshire: connection across distance.

## Recall question

Why does the speaker want thoughts to give way to presence?