

Anne Bradstreet

To My Dear and Loving Husband

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me, ye women, if you can.
5 I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
Nor ought¹ but love from thee, give recompense.
Thy love is such I can no way repay,
10 The heavens reward thee manifold,² I pray.
Then while we live, in love let's so persevere³
That when we live no more, we may live ever.

1. **ought**: anything.

2. **manifold**: abundantly.

3. **persevere**: pronounced "pur sev'ər" in the seventeenth century.

Edward Taylor

Huswifery

Make me, O Lord, Thy spinning¹ wheel complete.
Thy holy word my distaff make for me.
Make mine affections² Thy swift flyers neat,
And make my soul Thy holy spool to be.
5 My conversation make to be Thy reel,
And reel the yarn thereon spun of Thy wheel.

Make me Thy loom then, knit therein this twine;
And make Thy holy spirit, Lord, wind quills;³
Then weave the web Thyself. The yarn is fine.
10 Thine ordinances⁴ make my fulling mills.⁵
Then dye the same in heavenly colors choice,
All pinked⁶ with varnished flowers of paradise.

Then clothe therewith mine understanding, will,
Affections, judgment, conscience, memory,
15 My words and actions, that their shine may fill
My ways with glory and Thee glorify.
Then mine apparel shall display before Ye
That I am clothed in holy robes for glory.

1. **spinning**: making yarn by twisting woolen fibers. On a spinning wheel, the *distaff* holds the fibers to be spun; the *flyers* twist them into yarn, which is then wound on a *spool* or *reel*.

2. **affections**: emotions.

3. **quills**: weaver's spindles.

4. **ordinances**: religious rites.

5. **fulling mills**: mills in which cloth is cleaned and thickened.

6. **pinked**: decorated.