

SONNET 14

I have not learned; for still my heart is proud,
And seeks for what it cannot pay the price
For mere Desire alone will not suffice
To buy that sweet alluring lucent crowd
Of high-borne hopes--To us 'tis not allowed
To seize, unearned, a pearl of matchless worth--
'Tis true of all pure things upon the earth:
By virtue won; by Fortune's will endowed.

Seek not the prize, but seek to win the race;
Seek first the virtue which commands respect,
And no reward demand or e'er expect;
Then thy desires, be they for fame or face,
If worthy, come unasked to thine abode
To help thee pleasantly along life's road.