

SONNET 15

To win demands a glorious salute:  
All hail proud victor from the hard-fought games.  
Accept the praise that is thy due and fame's  
Acclaim. That it was earned none can refute  
Nor e'er with launting sneers deny. To shoot  
So high was in itself superb. To hit  
The mark deserves the highest praise and it  
Will strike the mocking sniveling critic mute.

Does Vict'ry teach as much as does Defeat?  
Does it teach self-control and lasting hate  
Of Pride and Self and of their ugly mate  
Conceit? Take care, lest in fames fervent heat,  
You lose those nobler fruits in high-borne pride  
That are not to the vanquished too denied.