**Petrarchan love**

**Petrarch** is sometimes called "the first writer of the Renaissance." When he was in his 20s, he supposedly saw **Laura** in church. She died of the plague in 1348 (on April 6th, the day he first saw her). He wrote over 300 poems (mostly sonnets) about his intense, unrequited love for the idealized Laura.

Here is one of Petrarch's more typical sonnets, "Number 134," as translated by Anthony Mortimer (notice the extreme use of **contrasting images**):

**CONTRASTS**

**PARADOX**

A statement/argument that seems to be contradictory or go against common sense, but may be true (e.g. “less is more”)

**ANTITHESIS**

Contrasting opposite words or ideas through the use of parallel language (e.g. “many are called, but few are chosen”)

**OXYMORON**

A word or phrase consisting of two opposite/contradictory words side by side (e.g. “bittersweet”, “plastic glass”)

I find no peace, and have no arms for war,

and fear and hope, and burn and yet I freeze,

and fly to heaven, lying on earth's floor,

and nothing hold, and all the world I seize.

My jailer opens not, nor locks the door,

nor binds me to hear, nor will loose my ties;

Love kills me not, nor breaks the chains I wear,

nor wants me living, nor will grant me ease.

I have no tongue, and shout; eyeless, I see;

I long to perish, and I beg for aid;

I love another, and myself I hate.

Weeping I laugh, I feed on misery,

by death and life so equally dismayed:

for you, my lady, am I in this state.

PETRARCHAN LOVE CONVENTIONS

1. Love as a battle, lover as "foe"

2. Love as deadly (disease, wound)

3. Love as torment

4. Love as bondage

5. Love as a hunt

6. Love/Beloved as ruler/master

7. The power of the Beloved's gaze (as ray, beam, etc.)

8. The beauty of the Beloved's person (like flowers, jewels, etc.)

9. The name of the Beloved/Poet (puns, wordplay, etc.)

10. Apostrophe (address to inanimate object, dead person, etc.)

11. The Beloved as a Star/Sun

12. The Virtue of the Beloved

13. Religious imagery