

Holy Sonnets: Batter my heart, three-person'd God

By John Donne

Pertrarchan sonnet

Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you A
 As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend; B
 That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend B
 Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new. A
 I, like an usurp'd town to another due, A
 Labor to admit you, but oh, to no end; B
 Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend, B
 But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue. A
 Yet dearly I love you, and would be lov'd fain, C
 But am betroth'd unto your enemy; D
 Divorce me, untie or break that knot again, C
 Take me to you, imprison me, for I, D
 Except you enthrall me, never shall be free, D
 Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me. D

Octave (8 lines)
 or octet ↑

Sestet (6 lines)

1. Mark on the paper: Alliterations, end-rhymes, personifications, metaphors, repetitions, oxymoron(s)

2. Comment on what you have marked.

3. What is this poem about? Theme, message. Is this something you have a personal experience with?