

# Abelard to Eloisa: A Brief Response

*Emma Roberts*

Time passes swiftly in great heaven's alleys, 1  
 Where cherished thoughts of you may bridge the valleys  
 Of the heart, lighting my eternal hearth  
 Under constant watch in Mary's holy earth.  
 Her vestals, a model of life anon, 5  
 A life of solitude from dusk until dawn.  
 Yet you have awakened in me what was,  
 And, again, I defy His sacred laws,  
 For selfishness turns me away in haste,  
 Toward thoughts not exalting, but unchaste. 10

Dearest beloved, when I talked of you  
 'Twas not to you, and now we must adieu,  
 For though our love was just and true of art,  
 Our promise is to God, devout in heart;  
 Just as a man departs from kin to wed, 15  
 So I submit to Him, who for thee bled,  
 And Him alone. This calling is divine  
 In nature, as it is for all of time.  
 I beg of you to hear my sincere plight,  
 For we have come to th'end of such delight. 20

Let's focus now on what comes from above,  
 For it is clearly written, God is love.  
 I see upon the page, where tears have fallen,  
 The fragile heart breaks of this loyal Christian,  
 But what was, can never again be true, 25  
 For it was not love, but lust, that we knew.  
 Forgive the force and harshness of my words  
 'Tis time to turn attention heavenwards,  
 Seek refuge in the One who loved you first,  
 It is for Him that you forever thirst. 30

I would never wish a love, lost, as this,  
 Whether it were inside or outside Grace,  
 To be bestowed upon any one of you,  
 Even deemed fair or false, some would argue.  
 Take comfort in the knowledge that some one, 35  
 Somewhere, awaits as you readily come.  
 Allow my words and lyrics to take root,  
 Recall past poets before they are moot,  
 For trailblazers are found in much of life,  
 In love, in poetry, with great sacrifice. 40



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