

# APOLOGIA

Oscar Wilde

a poem

published in *Poems by Oscar Wilde*  
by London: Methuen & co. Ltd., 1878

THE  
PROUD READER™

[theproudreader.com](http://theproudreader.com)

©2022 Keygen Ltd LLC

Is it thy will that I should wax and wane,  
Barter my cloth of gold for hodden grey,  
And at thy pleasure weave that web of pain  
Whose brightest threads are each a wasted day?

Is it thy will—Love that I love so well—  
That my Soul's House should be a tortured spot  
Wherein, like evil paramours, must dwell  
The quenchless flame, the worm that dieth not?

Nay, if it be thy will I shall endure,  
And sell ambition at the common mart,  
And let dull failure be my vestiture,  
And sorrow dig its grave within my heart.

Perchance it may be better so—at least  
I have not made my heart a heart of stone,  
Nor starved my boyhood of its goodly feast,  
Nor walked where Beauty is a thing unknown.

Many a man hath done so ; sought to fence  
In straitened bonds the soul that should be free,  
Trodden the dusty road of common sense,  
While all the forest sang of liberty,

Not marking how the spotted hawk in flight  
Passed on wide pinion through the lofty air,  
To where the steep untrodden mountain height  
Caught the last tresses of the Sun God's hair.

Or how the little flower he trod upon,  
The daisy, that white-feathered shield of gold,  
Followed with wistful eyes the wandering sun  
Content if once its leaves were aureoled.

But surely it is something to have been  
The best beloved for a little while,  
To have walked hand in hand with Love, and seen  
His purple wings flit once across thy smile.

Ay! though the gorgèd asp of passion feed  
On my boy's heart, yet have I burst the bars,  
Stood face to face with Beauty, known indeed  
The Love which moves the Sun and all the stars!



This document is released under the  
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license.

The written work contained in this document is in the public domain.  
You are free to copy its text and reuse it without permission.

You are free to share this document in its entirety—be it in print or digitally—  
but you are not authorized to modify it, sell it, or use it in any way commercially.

For more written works and free audiobooks, visit our website,  
and follow us at the social media sites below.

## Official Website

---

[theproudreader.com](http://theproudreader.com)

## Listen to The Proud Reader

---

YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UCHnUg4W9wkn2ISDoCxucd\\_A](https://youtube.com/channel/UCHnUg4W9wkn2ISDoCxucd_A)

Bitchute: [bitchute.com/theproudreader](https://bitchute.com/theproudreader)

Rumble: [rumble.com/c/TheProudReader](https://rumble.com/c/TheProudReader)

Odysee: [odysee.com/@TheProudReader:c](https://odysee.com/@TheProudReader:c)

## Follow The Proud Reader

---

Minds: [minds.com/theProudReader](https://minds.com/theProudReader)

Gab: [gab.com/theProudReader](https://gab.com/theProudReader)

Parler: [parler.com/TheProudReader](https://parler.com/TheProudReader)

Twitter: [twitter.com/TheProudReader](https://twitter.com/TheProudReader)

## Subscribe & Donate

---

Patreon: [patreon.com/theproudreader](https://patreon.com/theproudreader)

SubscribeStar: [subscribestar.com/theproudreader](https://subscribestar.com/theproudreader)

PayPal: [paypal.com/biz/fund?id=5GFSVWEHUPK66](https://paypal.com/biz/fund?id=5GFSVWEHUPK66)