

Poem XLIX (As phoebus in his spheris hicht) (c. 1586)  
Original Scots

As phoebus in his spheris hicht  
precellis the kaip Crepusculein  
And phoebe all the starris licht  
Ȝour splendour so madame I wein  
Dois onlie pas all feminine  
In sapience superlative  
Indewit with vertewis sa devine  
As leirned pallas rediviue

And as be hid vertew vnknawin  
The adamant drawis yron Ȝairtill  
Ȝour courtes nature so hes drawin  
My hait Ȝouris to continew still  
Sa greit loy dois my spreit fulfill  
contempling Ȝour perfectioun  
Ȝe weild me holie at Ȝour will  
and raviss my affectioun

3our perles Vertew dois provoike  
and loving kyndnes so dois move  
My Mynd to freindschip reciproc  
That treuth sail try sa far above  
The auntient heroicis love  
as salbe thocht prodigious  
and plaine experience sail prove  
Mair holie and religious.

In amitie, perithous  
To theseus was not so traist  
Nor Till Achilles patroclus  
nor pilades to trew orest  
Not 3it achates luif so lest  
to gud Enee nor sic freindschip  
Dauid to Ionathan profest  
nor Titus trew to kynd losip.

Nor 3it Penelope I wiss  
so luiffed vlisses in hir dayis  
Nor Ruth the kynd moabitiss  
Nohemie as the scripture sayis  
nor portia quhais worthie prayiss  
In romaine historeis we reid  
Quha did devoir the fyrie brayiss

To follow brutus to the deid  
Wald michtie love grant me the hap  
With  $\mathfrak{B}$ ow to have  $\mathfrak{B}$ our brutus pairt  
and metamorphosing our schap  
My sex intill his vaill convert  
No brutus then sould caus ws smart  
as we doe now vnhappie wemen  
Then sould we bayth with loyfull hairt  
honour and bliss  $\mathfrak{B}$ e band of hymen

$\mathfrak{B}$ ea certainlie we sould efface  
Pollux and castoris memorie  
and gif that thay desseruit place  
among the starris for loyaltie  
Then our mair perfyte amitie  
mair worthie recompence sould merit  
In hevin eternall deitie  
among the goddis till Inherit

And as we ar thocht till our wo  
nature and fortoun doe coniure  
and hymen also be our fo  
 $\mathfrak{B}$ it luif of vertew dois procure  
freindschip and amitie sa suire  
with sa greit feruencie and force

Sa constantlie quhilk sall Induire  
That not bot deid sall ws divorce

And thocht aduersitie ws vex  
3it be our freindschip salbe sein  
Thair is mair constancie in our sex  
Then euer amang men hes bein  
no troubill / torment / greif / or tein  
nor erthlie thing sall ws disseuer  
Sic constancie sall ws mantein  
In perfyte amitie for euer.

finis

Poem XLIX (As phoebus in his spheris hicht) (c. 1586)  
Modern English (Literal)

As Phoebus in his sphere's height  
Excels the cape of twilight  
And [as does] Phoebe the light of all the stars  
Your splendour so madame I believe  
Does only surpass all womankind  
In sapience superlative  
Endowed with virtues so divine  
As learned Pallas brought back to life

And as by hidden virtue unknown  
The adamant [diamond] draws iron thereto  
Your courteous nature so has drawn  
My heart yours to continue still  
So great joy does my spirit fulfil  
Contemplating your perfection  
You govern me wholly at your will  
And ravish my affection

Your peerless virtue does provoke  
And loving kindness so does move  
My mind to friendship mutual  
That truth shall prove so far above  
The ancient heroes' love  
As shall be thought prodigious  
And plain experience shall prove  
More holy and religious

In amity, Perithous  
To Theseus was not so faithful  
Nor to Achilles Patroclus  
nor Pilades to true Orest  
Nor yet Achates' love so lasting  
To good Enee nor such friendship  
David to Jonathon professed  
Nor Titus true to kind Josip

Nor yet Penelope, I advise  
So loved Ulysses in her days  
Nor Ruth the kind Moabitess  
Naomi as the scripture says,  
Nor Portia whose worthy praise  
In Roman histories we read

Who did devour the fiery coals  
To follow Brutus to the death  
Would mighty Jove (Jupiter) grant me the fortune  
With you to have your Brutus' part  
And metamorphising our shape  
My sex into his veil convert  
No Brutus then should cause us to hurt  
As we do now unhappy women  
Then we should both with joyful heart  
Honour and bless the band of Hymen

Yea certainly we should efface  
Pollux and Castor's memory  
And if that they deserved place  
Among the stars for loyalty  
Then our more perfect amity  
More worthy recompense should merit  
In heaven eternal deity  
Among the gods to inherit

And as we are though to our woe  
Nature and fortune do conspire  
And Hymen also be our foe  
Yet love of virtue does procure  
Friendship and amity so sure  
With so great fervency and force  
So constantly which shall endure  
That naught but death shall us divorce

And though adversity us vex  
Yet by our friendship shall be seen  
There is more constancy in our sex  
Than ever among men has been  
No trouble, torment, grief or suffering  
Nor earthly thing shall us sever  
Such constancy shall us maintain  
In perfect amity forever  
Finis