

# Can She Excuse My Wrongs (Madrigal: England :1597) SATB

John Dowland (1563 - 1626)

**S**  
 Can she ex - cuse base my wrongs with vir - tue's cloak?  
 Was I so base that I might not a - spire

**A**  
 Can she ex - cuse base my wrongs with vir - tues cloak?  
 Was I so base that I might not a - spire

**T**  
 8  
 Can she ex - cuse base my wrongs with vir - tues cloak?  
 Was I so base that I might not a - spire

**B**  
 Can she ex - cuse, ex - cuse my wrongs with vir - tues cloak?  
 Was I so base, so base that I might not a - spire

**S**  
 Shall I call her high good joys when which she proves un - kind?  
 un - to those her high good joys when which she she holds from me?

**A**  
 Shall I call her high good joys when which she she proves un - kind?  
 un - to those her high good joys when which she she holds from me?

**T**  
 8  
 Shall I call her high good joys when which she proves un - kind?  
 un - to those her high good joys when which she she holds from me?

**B**  
 Shall I call her high good joys when which she proves un - kind?  
 un - to those her high good joys when which she she holds from me?

9

Are those clear fires which van-ish in to smoke?  
 As they are high, so high is my de - sire,

Are those clear fires which van-ish in to smoke?  
 As they are high, so high is my de - sire,

Are those clear fires which van-ish in to smoke?  
 As they are high, so high is my de - sire,

Are those clear fires, clear fires, which van-ish in to smoke?  
 As they are high, high, are high, so high is my de - sire,

13

Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?  
 if she this de - nies, what can grant - ed be?

Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?  
 if this she de - nies, what can grant - ed be?

Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?  
 if she this de - nies, what can grant - ed be?

Must I praise the leaves, where no fruit I find?  
 if she this de - nies, what can grant - ed be?

17

No, no! Where sha - dows do for bo - dies stand,  
 An' she will yield to that which rea - dies son is,

No, no! Where sha - dows do, where sha - dows do for bo - dies stand,  
 An' she will yield to that which rea - son is, which rea - son

No, no, no! Where sha - dows do for bo - dies, for bo - dies stand,  
 An' she will yield to that which rea - son is, which rea - son

No, no! Where sha - dows do for bo - dies stand,  
 An' she will yield to that which rea - dies son is,

21

thou may'st be a - bus'd if thy thy sight should be dim;  
 it is rea - son's will that Love should be just!

thou may'st be a - bus'd, a - bus'd if thy thy sight be dim;  
 it is rea - son's, rea - son's will that Love should be just!

thou may'st be a - bus'd if that thy thy sight, thy sight should be dim;  
 it is rea - son's will that Love, that Love should be just!

thou may'st be a - bus'd if that thy thy sight should be dim,  
 it is rea - son's will that Love should be just!

25

Cold Dear, Love mak'st me like hap - py still writ - ten grant - ing sand, this,  
 Cold Dear, Love mak'st me like hap - py still writ - ten, two words writ - ten on grant - ing this, by grant - ing sand, this,  
 Cold, cold Love is like hap - py still two by words grant - ing, writ - ten on grant - ing sand, this,  
 Cold Dear, Love is like hap - py still writ - ten grant - ing sand, this,

29

or or two cut bub - bles de which lays on if the that wa - ter I swim. must!  
 or or two cut bub - bles de which, which on that wa - ter, wa - ter swim. must. die, that die I  
 or or two cut bub - bles de which lays, on de - the, wa - ter, wa - ter swim. must. if that die I  
 Or Or two cut bub - bles de - which Or on if the that wa - ter I swim. must.

33

Wilt thou be thus a - bu - sed still, see - ing that she will right thee nev - er?  
 Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die than for to live thus still tor - ment - ed;

Wilt thou be thus a - bu - sed still, see - ing that she will right thee ne - ver?  
 Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die, than for to live thus still tor - ment - ed;

Wilt thou be thus a - bus - ed still, see - ing that she will right thee  
 Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die, than for to love thus still tor -

Wilt thou be thus a - bus - ed still, see - ing that she will right thee nev - er?  
 Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die, than for to live thus still tor - ment - ed;

37

If thou can'st not o'er - come her will, thy love will be thus fruit - less,  
 Dear, but re - mem - ber it was I who for thy sake did die con -

If thou can'st not o'er - come her will, thy love will be thus fruit - less,  
 Dear, but re - mem - ber it was I, who for thy sake did die con -

nev - er, if thou can'st not o'er - come her will, thy love will be thus fruit - less,  
 - ment - ed; Dear, but re - mem - ber it was I, who for thy sake did die con -

If thou can'st not o'er - come her will, thy love will be thus fruit - less,  
 Dear, but re - mem - ber it was I who for thy sake did die con -

40

- ev - er. Wilt thou be thus a - bu - sed still, see - ing that she will  
 - tent - ed. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die than for to live thus  
 - ev - er. Wilt thou be thus a - bu - sed still, see - ing that she will  
 - ten - ted. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die, than for to live thus  
 8 e - ver. Wilt thou be thus a - bus - ed to still, see - ing that  
 - tent - ed. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die, than for to  
 - ev - er. Wilt thou be thus a - bus - ed still, see - ing that she will  
 - tent - ed. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die, than for to live thus

44

right thee nev - er? If thou can't not o'er - come her will, thy  
 still tor - ment - ed; Dear, but re - mem - ber it was I who  
 right thee ne - ver? If thou can't not o'er - come her will, thy love will thy  
 still tor - ment - ed; Dear, but re - mem - ber it was I, who for thy  
 8 she will right thee nev - er, if thou can't not o'er - come her will, thy love  
 love thus still tor - ment - ed; Dear, but re - mem - ber it was I, who for  
 right thee nev - er? If thou can't not o'er - come her will, thy  
 still tor - ment - ed; Dear, but re - mem - ber it was I who

1.

2.

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The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It consists of two endings, labeled 1. and 2. at the top. The first ending (1.) spans measures 1-4, and the second ending (2.) spans measures 5-8. The lyrics are as follows:

Voice	Ending 1 (Measures 1-4)	Ending 2 (Measures 5-8)
Soprano	love will be thus fruit - less, ev - er.	for thy sake did die con - tent - ed.
Alto	be thus fruit - less, ev - er	sake did die con - ten - ted.
Tenor	will be thus fruit - less, e - ver.	thy sake did die con - tent - ed.
Bass	love will be thus fruit - less, ev - er.	for thy sake did die con - tent - ed.

The score includes musical notation with treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are placed below the corresponding vocal lines.