

## Sir Philip Sidney

Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586) was a true "Renaissance man." He was a scholar, poet, and soldier and attended both Oxford and Cambridge. He became a favorite in the court of Elizabeth I, and was also quite innovative. His sonnet sequence, *Astrophel and Stella*, was linked by subject matter and theme. Each sonnet addresses an aspect of Astrophel's love for Stella. This sonnet sequence was inspired by Penelope Devereux (Stella), to whom Sir Philip (Astrophel) had been engaged. Their engagement was broken and she married another man.

### Sonnet 31

With how sad steps, O Moon, thou climb'st the skies!  
How silently, and with how wan a face!  
What, may it be that even in heav'nly place  
That busy archer his sharp arrows tries!  
Sure, if that long-with love-acquainted eyes  
Can judge of love, thou feel'st a lover's case,  
I read it in thy looks; thy languish'd grace  
To me, that feel the like, thy state describes.  
Then, ev'n of fellowship, O Moon, tell me,  
Is constant love deem'd there but want of wit?  
Are beauties there as proud as here they be?  
Do they above love to be lov'd, and yet  
Those lovers scorn whom that love doth possess?  
Do they call virtue there ungratefulness?

### Sonnet 39

Come Sleep; O Sleep! the certain knot of peace,  
The baiting-place of wit, the balm of woe,  
The poor man's wealth, the prisoner's release,  
Th' indifferent judge between the high and low;  
With shield of proof shield me from out the prease  
Of those fierce darts Despair at me doth throw:  
O make in me those civil wars to cease;  
I will good tribute pay, if thou do so.  
Take thou of me smooth pillows, sweetest bed,  
A chamber deaf to noise and blind of light,  
A rosy garland and a weary head;  
And if these things, as being thine by right,  
Move not thy heavy grace, thou shalt in me,  
Livelier than elsewhere, Stella's image see.