



# Death Be Not Proud

## DEATH BE NOT PROUD

by John Donne

Death be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so,  
For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow,  
Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me.  
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be, 5  
Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must flow,  
And soonest our best men with thee do go,  
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.  
Thou art slave to Fate, Chance, kings, and desperate men,  
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell, 10  
And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well,  
And better then thy stroke; why swell'st thou then;  
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,  
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.

<https://www.litcharts.com/poetry/john-donne/death-be-not-proud>