

To My Dear and Loving Husband

Anne Bradstreet

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me, ye women, if you can.
5 I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that rivers cannot quench, **A**
Nor ought but love from thee, give recompense.¹
Thy love is such I can no way repay,
10 The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live, in love let's so persevere²
That when we live no more, we may live ever. **B**

A FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Reread lines 5–7. How does the poet use **hyperbole** in these lines to emphasize her feelings for her husband?

B CLARIFY MEANING

Use conventional word order to restate the **inverted syntax** in lines 11–12. What relationship do the lines suggest between earthly love and eternal life?

ANALYZE VISUALS

Many Puritan women stitched samplers like the one shown here. The samplers often depicted nature scenes or stories from the Bible. What values are suggested by the subject matter of the sampler?

-
1. **recompense** (rĕk'əm-pĕns'): payment in return for something, such as a service.
 2. **persevere**: In Bradstreet's time, *persevere* would have been pronounced pŭr-sĕv'ĕr, which rhymes with *ever*.