

On Love  
from De Imitato Christi

Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good.  
Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth.  
It bears every hardship as though it were nothing,  
and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable.

Nothing is sweeter than love,  
Nothing stronger, nothing higher,  
Nothing wider, nothing more pleasant,  
Nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth;  
for love is born of God.

Love flies, runs and leaps for joy.  
It is free and unrestrained.  
Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds.  
Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil,  
Attempts things beyond its strength.

Love sees nothing as impossible,  
For it feels able to achieve all things.  
It is strange and effective,  
While those who lack love faint and fail.

Love is not fickle and sentimental,  
Nor is it intent on vanities.  
Like a living flame and a burning torch,  
It surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.

*Thomas a Kempis*