O never say that I was false of heart

From "English Lyrics" - Set 7 - Number 4 - Dedicated to Parry's wife

Words by William Shakespeare

From Sonnet No. 109

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O never say that I was false of heart

Though absence seem'd my flame to qualify.

As easy might I from my

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self de-part, As from my soul, which in thy breast doth lie:

That is my home of love: if I have ranged, Like him that travels, I return again; Just to the time,

not with the time exchanged,

So that myself bring water for my
stain.

Never believe, though in my

nature reign'd All frailties that besiege all kinds of blood, that it could

so prepos'rously be stain'd, To leave for no-thing all thy sum of
good; For nothing this wide

Più lento

universe I call, Save thou, my rose; in it

rit. a tempo

thou art my all.