

repetition of love
- not synonyms, but diff instances of love

1850

- context matters - estranged from slave owning family
- atheist
- new found direction

Sonnet 43

- rhetorical?

3 - everything - 30

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height

My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight

For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

- alluding to religion

5 I love thee to the level of every day's

- all encompassing.

Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.

I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;

- alluding to slavery?

I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.

- anti-church

I love thee with the passion put to use

10 In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.

- innocence + optimism
cf: maturity of now.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose

With my lost saints - I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God choose,

-> dramatic pause after
Caesura controversial statements

I shall but love thee better after death.

past
torments
new life

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

connection to
rebels?

Non-traditional sonnet form
suggests her love is unique in case of
it being unconventional.