

## To Mr Donne - His Mistress Replies to Elegy XIX

Dear John, I must decline what you suggest,  
I'm not a fertile country to explore  
though you persist in knocking at my door  
and think I will comply at your behest.  
This lady's not for shafting like the rest.  
Your catholic taste in every kind of whore  
is legendary, and good sir, what's more,  
you really need to give that tongue a rest.  
I won't be *safeliest with one man manned*.  
Your *roving hands* aren't *licensed*, they can't *go*.  
My *hairy diadem*, you understand, is mine  
and I dictate when it's on show.  
*To enter in these bonds is to be free* -  
methinks you jest, old man. You're kidding me!

**Fran Baillie**