

Pablo Neruda Poetry Analysis

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[Pablo Neruda](#) was a 20th century South American poet. His talent was obvious from a young age, and he published his first poem when he was still a teenager. Neruda led an intriguing life, and writing poetry was a major aspect of that. He expressed his views through his work. One of his most beautiful poems was called, "I Do Not Love you," and is also referred to as "Sonnet 17."

Neruda begins the poem by utilizing imagery and symbolism. He writes, "I do not love you as if you were salt-rose, or topaz/or the arrow of carnations the fire shoots off." This love is not perfect or ideal, like these objects that symbolize love. It is not always beautiful or peaceful. Instead, the love is described, "as certain dark things are to be loved/in secret, between the shadow and the soul." The love these two individuals share comes from a deeper place. It is honest and authentic.

In the next stanza, Neruda further describes his love as a "plant that never blooms/but carries in itself the light of hidden flowers." This person is far from a perfect "plant," but still, she has "light" and is full of life and love. The love does not always make sense. It just is. Neruda says he loves her "without knowing how, or when, or from where," and "because I know no other way." Despite experiencing bumps along the road of love, the love is unconditional. He also utilizes diction, and the words he uses to describe the love are effective. He loves "straightforwardly, without complexities or pride." Neruda abandons everything else for this love because it's all that matters.

Neruda ends the poem with a lovely description of the love he feels. "Where I does not exist, nor you," he writes. The couple are one and neither can survive without the other. Neruda describes this unity with the lines, "so close that your hand on my chest is my hand/so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep." His hand is her hand and her eyes see what he sees. The lovers are one body and one soul. These individuals feel each other's pain and joy. They are united forever through this unconditional love. Neruda's words are beautiful and he once again uses diction to convey the emotion of the love he feels.

Pablo Neruda was a poet who had the gift of beautiful language. His way of describing love was exquisite and unique. He conveyed emotion and feelings by using imagery, symbolism and descriptive diction in this poem. In addition to being a beautiful poem, it is also a sonnet, a poem that often addresses romantic love. In "Sonnet 17," Neruda does this very well. "I Do Not Love You" was a true work of art. Neruda was a talented man and went on to win a Nobel Prize for his work in 1971.