

## “I Cannot Live With You” by Emily Dickinson

I cannot live with You --  
It would be Life --  
And Life is over there --  
Behind the Shelf

The Sexton keeps the Key to --  
Putting up  
Our Life -- His Porcelain --  
Like a Cup --

Discarded of the Housewife --  
Quaint -- or Broke --  
A newer Sevres pleases --  
Old Ones crack --

I could not die -- with You --  
For One must wait  
To shut the Other's Gaze down --  
You -- could not --

And I -- Could I stand by  
And see You -- freeze --  
Without my Right of Frost --  
Death's privilege?

Nor could I rise -- with You --  
Because Your Face  
Would put out Jesus' --  
That New Grace

Glow plain -- and foreign  
On my homesick Eye --  
Except that You than He  
Shone closer by --

They'd judge Us -- How --  
For You -- served Heaven -- You know,  
Or sought to --  
I could not --

Because You saturated Sight --  
And I had no more Eyes  
For sordid excellence  
As Paradise

And were You lost, I would be --  
Though My Name  
Rang loudest  
On the Heavenly fame --

And were You -- saved --  
And I -- condemned to be  
Where You were not --  
That self -- were Hell to Me --

So We must meet apart --  
You there -- I -- here --  
With just the Door ajar  
That Oceans are -- and Prayer --  
And that White Sustenance --  
Despair --