

# Sonnet XVII

## by Pablo Neruda

I don't love you as if you were a rose of salt, topaz,  
or arrow of carnations that propagate fire:  
I love you as one loves certain obscure things,  
secretly, between the shadow and the soul.

I love you as the plant that doesn't bloom but carries  
the light of those flowers, hidden, within itself,  
and thanks to your love the tight aroma that arose  
from the earth lives dimly in my body.

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from  
where,  
I love you directly without problems or pride:  
I love you like this because I don't know any other way  
to love,  
except in this form in which I am not nor are you,  
so close that your hand upon my chest is mine,  
so close that your eyes close with my dreams.



### A look Inside "Sonnet XVII"

One Hundred Love Sonnets: XVII by Pablo Neruda, is a romantic poem where the author describes through lines how deep is the feeling of being in love with someone. He uses words such as flowers and fire, and connects them to explain the meaning of love. Neruda is an author with a lot of pieces that in one form or another, takes the reader inside of his stories. In the case on Sonnet XVII, the reader emerges in a love journey which is precisely, why I choose this poem from all his collection. As a romantic soul, I love how Neruda writes about love in this poem. Sonnet XVII, is indeed a romantic expression of love. A portrayal of feelings used to explain the power of the phrase "I love you" in the most beautiful form.

From the very first line of the poem, Neruda starts by explaining the way he loves. He compares it with topaz, which is a precious stone that he uses as a synonym to describe the beauty of his love. He also connects how profound is his love by comparing it to those things that we all as humans like in secret. We can see it as those "guilty pleasures" that one has in this life. Something that is not sacred or pure enough to be love out loud.

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# Pablo Neruda (1904-1973)

Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) was perhaps the greatest Spanish poet of the 20th century. His first book, *Crepusculario* (Twilight Book), was published in 1923, and the following year he published *Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada* (Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair), a book of intensely romantic and erotic poems. This became his most popular work, more than a million and a half copies of which were published in Spanish alone before his death.

In 2003, a collection of 600 of Neruda's poems was published under the name of "The Poetry of Pablo Neruda."



Neruda was awarded the International Peace Prize in 1950, the Stalin Peace Prize in 1953, a Doctorate in Literature from Oxford in 1965, and the Nobel Prize in 1971.

Indeed, Neruda is one of the most remarkable authors within the Latin American literature. He was very proud of his latin roots and "insisted that he was specifically a Latin American poet." There have been few poets as prolific as Neruda and few who have sought after, and achieved, such high and diverse standards of excellence. The least that can be said of Neruda is that he was the greatest Spanish poet of the century.



*"I love you as one loves certain  
obscure things,  
secretly, between the shadow and  
the soul."*

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