

## 1.7.-The World of Literature: Quevedo and Lope de Vega

Literature is actually an art that expresses human experience in an incomparable way. Literature is, without a doubt, a world full of feelings, reasons and emotions within which we human beings can recognise ourselves. You will read two sonnets, two poems dealing with two essential human experiences: solitude and meeting.

### QUEVEDO (1580-1645)

Amor más allá de la muerte

Cerrar podrá mis ojos la postrera  
sombra que me llevare el blanco día,  
y podrá desatar esta alma mía  
hora a su afán ansioso lisonjera;

mas no, de esotra parte, en la ribera,  
dejará la memoria, en donde ardía:  
nadar sabe mi llama la agua fría,  
y perder el respeto a ley severa.

Alma a quien todo un dios prisión ha  
sido,  
venas que humor a tanto fuego han  
dado,  
médulas que han gloriosamente ardido:

su cuerpo dejarán no su cuidado;  
serán ceniza, mas tendrá sentido;  
polvo serán, mas polvo enamorado.

### LOPE DE VEGA (1562-1635)

Desmayarse, atreverse, estar furioso

Desmayarse, atreverse, estar furioso,  
áspero, tierno, liberal, esquivo,  
alentado, mortal, difunto, vivo,  
leal, traidor, cobarde y animoso;

no hallar fuera del bien centro y  
reposo,  
mostrarse alegre, triste, humilde,  
altivo,  
enojado, valiente, fugitivo,  
satisfecho ofendido receloso;

huir el rostro al claro desengaño,  
beber veneno por licor suave,  
olvidar el provecho, amar el daño;

creer que el cielo en un infierno cabe,  
dar la vida y el alma a un desengaño,  
esto es amor: quien lo probó lo sabe.

## FEELING AND THINKING WITH WORDS

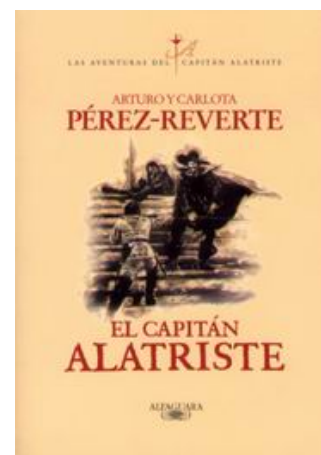
1. Read these sonnets carefully. Look up the words you do not understand in the dictionary. What do these expressions mean?

- "final shadow" - "will soon be ash, but ash that is aware"

- "To avert your face from bitter disappointment"

- "To believe heaven is encountered in hell"

2. Which human experiences are the poets talking about? Do you agree with their descriptions? What would you tell them? Have a go at adding more adjectives to the experience described by Lope de Vega!



3. Get some more information about Lope de Vega and Quevedo. Where did they live? When? Mention some other outstanding writers from the same period and place.
4. Search for a poem or a brief description that deals with human experiences.

#### **AN INVITATION TO READ...**

Arturo Pérez Reverte describes the age of Quevedo and Lope perfectly in his books about "Captain Alatrisme". These books lead us into a world full of emotion and adventure. The saga not only teaches us about history and literature, but we also discover the dimensions of our existence through its adventures. We also discover the complexity of feelings like courage, honour, caution, friendship, commitment, etc...

"He was not the most honest or pious of men, but he was courageous..." This is the beginning of *Captain Alatrisme*, the story of a veteran soldier of the Flanders Army... You can continue on your own...