Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Biography



Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was born in a town in Mexico in 1651 and died in the capital of that same country in 1695. She was acknowledged as one of the most outstanding Mexican writers of the seventeenth century.

At sixteen years old, she joined the Carmelitas Descalzas convent in Mexico and later joined the order of San Jerónimo where she always remained. She wasn't a devout religious, in fact, her ordainment leaning was related to her desire of keeping her intellectual hobby, to prevent her from being turned (as all women from her time) into a sex slave for the opposite gender, a martyr of the kitchen and the house chores.

ACTIVITY

Instructions: Analyze the following poem translation and number the sentences according to the organization from the poem on the right.

Then, choose the best word to complete the sentences.

( )This afternoon, my love, speaking to you
since I could see that in your face and walk

( )Enough, my love, don't be so stiff, don't let

( )amid my tears that were poured out by pain,
my heart became distilled, was broken through.

( ) your touch -- and so is shattered in your hands.

( )maddening jealousies and arrogance
haunt you or let your quiet be upset

( )I failed in coming close to you with talk,
I wanted you to see my heart.

( )by foolish shadows: false signs of a man's
presence; for now, you see my heart which met

( )Love, who supported me in what I longed to do,
conquered the impossible to attain,

Esta tarde, mi bien, cuando te hablaba,
como en tu rostro y en tus acciones vía
que con palabras no te persuadía,
que el corazón me vieses deseaba.

Y Amor, que mis intentos ayudaba,
venció lo que imposible parecía,
pues entre el llanto que el dolor vertía,
el corazón deshecho destilaba.

Baste ya de rigores, mi bien, baste,
no te atormenten más celos tiranos,
ni el vil recelo tu quietud contraste

con sombras necias, con indicios vanos:
pues ya en líquido humor viste y tocaste
mi corazón deshecho entre tus manos.

LIVEWORKSHEETS