

Fernando Pessoa

**VI — As a bad orator, badly o'er-book-skilled,**

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As a bad orator, badly o'er-book-skilled,  
Doth overflow his purpose with made heat,  
And, like a clock, winds with withoutness willed  
What should have been an inner instinct's feat;  
Or as a prose-wit, harshly poet turned,  
Lacking the subtler music in his measure,  
With useless care labours but to be spurned,  
Courting in alien speech the Muse's pleasure;  
I study how to love or how to hate,  
Estranged by consciousness from sentiment,  
With a thought feeling forced to be sedate  
Even when the feeling's nature is violent;  
As who would learn to swim without the river,  
When nearest to the trick, as far as ever.

s. d.

«35 Sonnets». in **Poemas Ingleses**. Fernando Pessoa. (Edição bilingue, com prefácio, traduções, variantes e notas de Jorge de Sena e traduções também de Adolfo Casais Monteiro e José Blanc de Portugal.) Lisboa: Ática, 1974.

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