Directions: Read, annotate, and analyze the poem…

ON HER LOVING TWO EQUALLY ***by: Aphra Behn***

**I.**

OW strongly does my passion flow,

Divided equally 'twixt two?

Damon had ne'er subdued my heart,

Had not Alexis took his part;

Nor could Alexis powerful prove,

Without my Damon's aid, to gain my love.

**II.**

When my Alexis present is,

Then I for Damon sigh and mourn;

But when Alexis I do miss,

Damon gains nothing but my scorn.

But if it chance they both are by,

For both alike I languish, sigh, and die.

**III.**

Cure then, thou mighty winged god,

This restless fever in my blood;

One golden-pointed dart take back:

But which, O Cupid, wilt thou take?

If Damon's, all my hopes are crossed;

Or that of my Alexis, I am lost.

|  |
| --- |
| 'On her Loving Two Equally' first appeared as 'How Strangely does my Passion grow' in *The False Count* (1682). It was reprinted in *Poems on Several Occasions* (1684). The 1684 version is printed here. |