

Explanation and Analysis: In the second stanza, the speaker reflects on her relationship with her husband, referred to as "my lord." While she acknowledges that he loves her well, there is an underlying tension in her emotions. The phrase "when first he breathed his vow" suggests a moment of significant importance the exchange of wedding vows. The words "rang as a knell" introduce a somber tone, as a "knell" is traditionally associated with a funeral bell, signaling death.