

Frederick Delius - Cease Smiling, Dear!

**Cease smiling, Dear! a little while be sad
Here in the silence, under the wan moon
Sweet are thine eyes, but how can I be glad
Knowing they change so soon?**

**O could this moment be perpetuate!
Must we grow old, and leaden-eyed and gray
And taste no more the wild and passionate
Love sorrows of to-day?**

**O red pomegranate of thy perfect mouth!
My lips' life-fruitage might I taste and die
Here to thy garden, where the scented south
Wind chastens agony;**

**Reap death from thy live lips in one long kiss
And look my last into thine eyes and rest:
What sweets had life to me sweeter than this
Swift dying on thy breast?**

**Or, if that may not be, for Love's sake, Dear!
Keep silence still, and dream that we shall lie
Red mouth to mouth, entwined, and always hear
The south wind's melody**

**Here in thy garden, through the sighing boughs
Beyond the reach of time and chance and change
And bitter life and death, and broken vows
That sadden and estrange**