

As shown in the poems given, drastic class differences in relationships almost always affect the progression of a relationship between the person of lower class and the individual of higher status, and people in different classes usually have a large amount of worry regarding public perception of the relationship.

Class differences between people of upper and lower classes have the ability to affect the otherwise natural progression of a relationship. One specific example that supports this argument can be found in the poem "I Wish I Were Her Laundryman," which is a praise poem where the speaker talks about, wishing he was the laundryman for a girl that he likes. The specific lines that stuck out in this poem are "But gentle to touch those finespun things/lying closest the body I love." These lines are the ones that most distinctly speak of a class difference between these two, the words 'finespun things' seem to imply that the woman's clothes are of high quality, higher quality than the speaker is used to. He uses these words specifically to describe the clothing of this woman that he loves and it gives the impression that she's of much higher status or class than he is. The overarching message of the poem saying that he would be lucky to be her laundryman, indicates that he's of much lower class than she is just as much as the few lines quotes above. It could be interpreted that he'd be lucky if he were to be her laundryman because then he would get an opportunity to interact with her as well as her possessions, and he wouldn't have this opportunity otherwise. If the relationship wasn't between people in such different classes it may be possible that the relationship would progress much more naturally and that they might be happy together. However in Ancient Egypt the relationship will not get a chance to occur because the only way that the speaker could ever be in contact with this girl he loves is by being her laundryman.

When two people with a large class difference wish to be in a relationship, their relationship will be highly influenced by their opinions on the public opinion. A poem which has lines that demonstrate

this well is called, "My Brother Torments My Heart" which is more of an introspective poem talking about a female speaker who is in love with a man who she can not be with, seemingly similar to Romeo and Juliet. The specific lines that I feel fit this theme the most are "Mother is right in charging him thus: 'Give up seeing her!'" and the lines "Father, mother will rejoice! / My people will hail you all together," The first few lines mentioned seem to imply that the man she's in love with is not in her class, whether that be because she's of higher class than him, or because he's of higher class than her, her mother doesn't want her seeing him due to the fact that they're not in the same class. The next few lines talk more about public perception regarding them being in a relationship. The speaker says that if they had the ability to be together then people would 'hail them together' and that their parents would 'rejoice', and this can be interpreted as her caring very much about the public perception of herself and of the two of them. From what has been read from the poem it's known that she likes this man and that he may like her back regardless of the class differences, however the public opinion on them being together is making it harder for the two of them to be together.

Class differences have been a large part of our society as a whole, your status used to determine your job, who your friends were, and who you were allowed to be with. There are multiple mentions of this throughout many different aspects of history, and here it's most specified regarding Ancient Egyptian love poems. These poems make it clear that class differences in relationships have the ability to affect the progression of a relationship, and that people in different classes are wary about public perception of them.