

# Ode to a Shopping Mall

by Con Chapman

*In 1609 Ben Jonson was hired to write a work in celebration of the opening of a new shopping mall.*

*Ben Jonson: A Life, Ian Donaldson*

Drinke to me, onely, with thine eyes,  
And your lids will soon over-runneeth;  
You'd do better visiting our new Food Court  
For a smoothie that's lots of funneeth.

When you're done and you've expanded in size  
Down the escalator you should runneeth  
To the Plus-Size Women's Clothing Store  
(Insert here another punneeth.)

Or you could take several yoga classes  
At Hatha Helpers, where tuition's  
So low you can pay it without a care—  
We're upscale but not patrician.



Now about those eyes—if you require glasses,  
We've a resident optician  
Who'll make up specs for you in a flash;  
I tell you, they're truly magicians.

