

Questions on Song: To Lucasta, Going to the Wars by Richard Lovelace:

1. What does this poem suggest about the nature and causes of war? What is suggested, for example, by the image of war as “a new mistress” (5)? By the references to “faith” (7) and “honor” (12)?
2. What is the dramatic situation of the poem? As a poem containing an argument, is it rhetorically effective? Do we think that it would be persuasive?
3. What about war and love seems to require honor?
4. Is anything important indicated by the title, including the word “Song”? Does this influence how we read the poem?