Textual Criticism Exercise

Produce a polished critical edition of this 14th century poem by the Persian Sufi poet Shams-al-din Muhammad Hafez. It mysteriously survives only in the following five English-language manuscripts! The autograph copy of the poet is not publicly available, but Dr. Slouber has access to it so we can check your work at the end! A reference to the poem in a trustworthy work of the same era says that it has eight lines (assume it is true). Try to account for any differences in the six manuscript witnesses to the text, decide on which word(s) in each case you think are original, and note the variants in footnotes. For example, line one would begin:

Love is a[1]

1. Love is a] **ABC**, 1OVEISA **D**, FIRSTLOVEISA **E**.

Bonus if you can discover the relationship of each manuscript to the others (i.e. which one copies from which or which seems to be independent)!

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Manuscript E

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