

TO THE VIRGINS, TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME.

by Robert Herrick

GATHER ye rosebuds while ye may,  
Old time is still a-flying :  
And this same flower that smiles to-day  
To-morrow will be dying.

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,  
The higher he's a-getting,  
The sooner will his race be run,  
And nearer he's to setting.

That age is best which is the first,  
When youth and blood are warmer ;  
But being spent, the worse, and worst  
Times still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time,  
And while ye may go marry :  
For having lost but once your prime  
You may for ever tarry.

## Herrick "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time"

### Discussion Questions

1. What does the speaker entreat of his love?
2. What justifications or reasoning does he employ for persuasive effect?
3. How would you describe his tone? What words best contribute to this tone?
4. Do the tone and message remain constant throughout, or is there a shift in the poem?
5. Do you imagine his reasoning was sufficiently persuasive?
6. Would such a poem move or impress you?
7. What is the poet's chosen meter?
8. What is the poet's chosen rhyme scheme?
9. Which line or phrase best describes the "carpe diem" philosophy?
10. Does the poem seem characteristic of the Cavalier style?
11. What literary devices are employed in the work and to what effect are they used?