

Sonnet 18 by Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair sometimes declines,
By chance or nature's changing course **untrimmed**;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou **ow'st**;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou **grow'st**,
 So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
 So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Definitions

- **Untrimmed**: stripped of beauty
- **Ow'st**: beauty you own
- **Grow'st**: When in this immortal poetry you become even with time.
- The boast of immortality for one's verse was a Renaissance convention (rule) and goes back to the classics. It implies, not egotism on the part of the poet, but a faith in the performance of poetry.

Sonnet 18 “Paraphrased”

Shall I compare you to a summer's day?
You are more lovely and more constant:
Rough winds shake the beloved buds of May
And summer is far too short:
At times the sun is too hot,
Or often goes behind the clouds;
And everything beautiful sometime will lose its beauty,
By misfortune or by nature's planned out course.
But your youth shall not fade,
Nor will you lose the beauty that you possess;
Nor will death claim you for his own,
Because in my eternal verse you will live forever.
So long as there are people on this earth,
So long will this poem live on, making you immortal.

Literary Terms

- **Personification**: a figure of speech in which human attributes (qualities) are given to an animal, an object, or a concept.
- **Figurative Language**: Language employing figures of speech; language that cannot be taken literally or only literally. It always makes use of a comparison between different things that are different in enough ways so that their similarities, when pointed out, are interesting, unique and/or surprising. E.g. "All the world's a stage."