



## SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS AND THE CONCEPT OF TIME

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### ABSTRACT

Shakespeare's sonnets actually follow a basic structure based on time. In this article, we have considered the concept of time in Shakespeare's sonnets.

### KEYWORDS

Internal, cognitive, concept, eternity, intriguing, companion, focal point, century, significant.

### INTRODUCTION

Shakespeare's sonnets cover a wide range of topics, including time, friendship, love, and art. Among these, time serves as both the theme and the focal point. One of the most intriguing concepts that shaped poetry in the 16th century is time, which plays a significant internal role in his 154 sonnets' structure and connections. Shakespeare shows in his sonnets that he has tried his hardest to transcend time and maintain immortality with solutions, in addition to expressing the brutality and cruelty of the sword of time to nature and life. Shakespeare's sonnets have been admired and analysed by numerous domestic and international

experts from a variety of angles for hundreds of years. For instance, the topics that were prominent throughout the Renaissance are love, friendship, time, beauty, and so forth. The majority of research on time, however, examines time-related sonnets separately and from the standpoint of cognitive metaphor [1]. Shakespeare's sonnets actually follow a basic structure based on time. In order to examine Shakespeare's attitude towards time and his strategy for resisting time and preserving eternity in sonnets, this paper will use sonnets 73 and 116 as examples and

mix them with other sonnets from the perspective of time.

Shakespeare's sonnets are constructed and connected with time as a key intrinsic component. The frequent direct appearance of the word "time" in sonnets indicates that time is a fundamental element of sonnets.

During the Renaissance, many thought that time was cruel and might ruin everything that was good in the world [3]. Shakespeare examined the fluctuations of friendship, love, and beauty over time in his sonnets [3]. He consistently highlights in his sonnets how "swift footed" time ruthlessly eats away at youth and beauty. Time will degrade a young man's beauty, leaving his forehead marked by the passage of time, until his face is wrinkly and depressed.

According to the poet, people are not helpless against the passage of time. By producing the next generation, humans can transcend time and discover the worth of themselves and the purpose of existence [6]. Despite the fact that death is unavoidable, beauty and virtue can endure via reproduction, establishing temporal resistance and preserving youth and beauty for generations to come. Therefore, the poet encouraged the young guy to marry and have children in order to maintain his youth and beauty while also celebrating it. At the start of his sonnets, the poet brings up this subject.

Along with the sonnets' exhortations to get married and have children, the poet also conveys the idea that poetry's ability to preserve youth and beauty is one method to fight time and preserve eternity. The poet had to alter his comments when he realised that marriage and childbirth were insufficient to convince

his young companion. Shakespeare was actually preserving the vitality and beauty of young men by relying on his belief in literary immortality. The artists of the Renaissance developed an idea that their creations were valuable for all time, which was one of its defining characteristics. During the Renaissance, poetry frequently addressed the topics of literary immortality and art permanence.

Poetry can bestow "immortal fame" on the beauty and virtue of the objects of praise since, to Renaissance writers, poetry is immortal beyond time. Poetry has the ability to transcend time and immortalise its subject. One such statement is found in Sonnet 18. The speaker of this sonnet compares his young pals to a sunny summer day, May blossoms, and the sun in the sky, yet they are powerless to stop fate-controlled changes and will eventually be sucked up by time. The only thing that can keep young people's beauty and freshness alive is poetry: "As long as men can breathe or eyes can see, so long this, and this gives life to thee." In addition, the poet describes how time can destroy everything in sonnet 19, yet he still believes that his poetry can prevent time from passing and keep his beloved alive. The poet expresses the same idea in sonnets 55, 60, 65, and 107 as well. In the sonnets, the unending vitality of poetry is more impregnable than the stone, steel door, wider than the enormous earth and the endless ocean, and greater than the savage beast and the long life of the phoenix. Though he feels poetry might save his beloved friend's spirit, the poet occasionally acknowledges that his beloved friend's face will deteriorate. Similar to Sonnet 63: "His beauty shall in these black lines be seen, and they shall live, and he in them still green." It expresses the Christian belief that the body dies and the spirit lives forever [7]. True love, marriage, childbirth, and poetry are among the

remedies indicated above that can withstand the passage of time and preserve immortality and eternity. In his sonnets, Shakespeare appears to extol true love, marriage, childbirth, and poetry, but in reality, he emphasises the magnificence and wisdom of humanity through these three human endeavours. Even if everything can change and be consumed by time, humans still have some control. In order to resist the effects of time, humans have developed solutions. In Shakespeare's Hamlet, "What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! The beauty of the world! The paragon of animals!" (Hamlet, II, ii), Shakespeare expresses the same notion, praising humanity's capacity to transcend time and highlighting its majesty. Thus, from this angle, it also highlights human power and intelligence.

## CONCLUSION

One of the most significant topics in Shakespeare's sonnets is time. The poet's logical starting point for his poems is the concept of time. Shakespeare uses the term "time" and words connected to time 99 times throughout his sonnets, which may indicate his awareness of his attitude towards time. In his sonnets, he highlights the brutality and destructive force of time. He offers remedies against time, marriage, childbirth, genuine love, and poetry, despite the fact that time never stops and can consume everything. Three methods exist for humans to preserve eternity in infinite time. His affirmation of human ability against time, as well as his appreciation of friendship, love, beauty, and poetry, may also be seen in these three ways against time. Furthermore, Shakespeare also extols the virtues of humanity. Shakespeare's sonnets are therefore logically organised around the theme of

time and means against time. It may also indicate the poet's desire to find something beyond time in order to challenge the passive idea that time governs people and to work towards preserving eternity. The limited number of sonnets included as examples is one of the study's limitations. The concepts of time and eternity will be examined in further detail in a larger selection of Shakespeare's sonnets in order to address this.

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