

## Shakespeare: Sonnet 60

### vocabulary

word	meaning	verse
pebbles	small, round stones	1
sequent	consecutive, successive	4
toil	effort	4
contend	fight	4
nativity	birth	5
crooked	deceitful, fraudulent	7
eclipse	darkness, here: setback	7
confound	confuse, destroy, overturn	8
transfix	pierce, spear (German: durchbohren)	9
delve	bury, dig	10
parallel	ditch, furrow (German: Furche, hier: Falte)	10
scythe	German: Sense	12

### synopsis

verses 1-4 (1 <sup>st</sup> quatrain)	Shakespeare compares the minutes passing by to the waves that come and go at the shore. Like the waves, the minutes struggle forward to change places with the one that was there before.
verses 5-8 (2 <sup>nd</sup> quatrain)	It is described that childhood slowly turns into adulthood, which has to fight against time taking its valuable gifts (such as energy and adolescence) away again.
verses 9-12 (3 <sup>rd</sup> quatrain)	Now Shakespeare describes the ageing of an older person through the passing of time until, at the end, only death is left.
verses 13-14 (couplet)	To lift the readers and his own spirits, the poet now contradicts what has been said before by stating that his writing will survive the destruction through time and prove the person's worth.

### structure

→ 3 quatrains, 1 couplet

→ each quatrain has its own special imagery

→ rhyme scheme: cross rhyme (quatrains) and pair rhyme (couplet)

stylistic devices	interpretation
1. quatrain: imagery of ocean, water movement	
“like as the <i>waves</i> “ (v.1) - simile - → everlasting cycle of the tide, movement endlessly repeating → infinity of time	wave = a human life; one human life is unimportant compared with the quantity of lives (ocean is huge)
“ <i>minutes hasten</i> to their end“ (v.2) - personification- → rapidity of passing time	
“changing place“ (v.3)	place = moment
“in sequent <i>toil</i> . . . <i>contend</i> “ (v.4)	→ misery, hard work, pain of life, human has to fight
2. quatrain: imagery of light and darkness	
“ <i>nativity</i> . . . <i>maturity</i> . . . <i>crooked eclipses</i> ” -	the development of a human lifetime → (birth

personifications- (v. 5- 7)	. . . adulthood . . . death)
“nativity . . . <i>crawls</i> “ (v. 5/6) - personification -	<i>crawl</i> hints at the way babies move → slow movement, time seems to pass slowly
“main of light” (v. 5)	1. standing in the clearest light, full glare of light (perfect state, heaven) 2. alluding to the ability of the eyes to see clearly
“ <i>crooked eclipses . . . fight</i> ” (v. 7) ; (“ <i>main of light</i> ”)	imagery of the fight between light and darkness: → light is something positive, (“glory”) → darkness means waste, aging, death - light fights against darkness = life fights against death
“Time . . . his gift confound” (v. 8) - personification -	death: the time on earth is over
3. quatrain: how Time treats people	
“ <i>parallels</i> in beauty’ s brow” (v. 10)	parallels = wrinkles;
“ <i>rarities</i> of nature’ s truth” ( v. 11)	= humankind; the rare, special because intelligent creature of the earth
“ <i>nothing</i> stands . . . scythe to mow” (v. 12)	nobody can escape death
couplet	
“praising <i>thy</i> worth” (v. 14)	addressed to a lover
“ <i>despite his</i> cruel hand” (v. 14)	-love can overcome death and can make its message (in poetry) immortal; -“his” → relates to death