

## 65

- Since brass, nor<sup>4</sup> stone, nor earth, nor boundless sea  
 But sad mortality o'er-sways their power,  
 How with this rage<sup>o</sup> shall beauty hold a plea, *destructive power*  
 Whose action is no stronger than a flower?  
 5 O, how shall summer's honey breath hold out  
 Against the wrackful<sup>o</sup> siege of batt'ring days, *destructive*  
 When rocks impregnable are not so stout,  
 Nor gates of steel so strong, but time decays?  
 O fearful meditation! where, alack,<sup>o</sup> *alas*  
 10 Shall time's best jewel from time's chest lie hid?  
 Or what strong hand can hold his swift foot back?  
 Or who his spoil of beauty<sup>5</sup> can forbid?  
 O, none, unless this miracle have might,  
 That in black ink my love may still shine bright.

## 71

- No longer mourn for me when I am dead  
 Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell<sup>6</sup>  
 Give warning to the world that I am fled  
 From this vile world, with vilest worms to dwell:  
 5 Nay, if you read this line, remember not  
 The hand that writ it; for I love you so,  
 That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot,  
 If thinking on me then should make you woe.  
 Oh, if, I say, you look upon this verse  
 10 When I (perhaps) compounded am with clay,  
 Do not so much as my poor name rehearse,  
 But let your love even with my life decay;  
 Lest the wise world should look into your moan,  
 And mock you with me after I am gone.

## 73

- That time of year thou mayst in me behold  
 When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang  
 Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,  
 Bare ruined choirs,<sup>7</sup> where late the sweet birds sang.  
 5 In me thou see'st the twilight of such day  
 As after sunset fadeth in the west;  
 Which by and by black night doth take away,

4. I.e., since there is neither brass nor.

5. Ravaging of beauty; the Quarto has "or" for "of," and some modern editors follow that reading.

6. The bell rang to announce the death of a parish

member, one stroke for each year he or she had lived.

7. Parts of churches occupied by singers or clergy.

- Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.  
 In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire,  
 10 That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,  
 As the deathbed whereon it must expire,  
 Consumed with that which it was nourished by.  
 This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,  
 To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

## 76

- Why is my verse so barren of new pride,<sup>°</sup> *adornment*  
 So far from variation or quick change?<sup>8</sup>  
 Why with the time do I not glance aside  
 To new-found methods, and to compounds<sup>9</sup> strange?  
 5 Why write I still all one, ever the same,  
 And keep invention in a noted<sup>°</sup> weed,<sup>°</sup> *familiar / clothing*  
 That every word doth almost tell my name,  
 Showing their,<sup>°</sup> birth, and where they did proceed? *the words'*  
 O know, sweet love, I always write of you,  
 10 And you and love are still my argument.<sup>°</sup> *theme*  
 So all my best is dressing old words new,  
 Spending again what is already spent:  
 For as the sun is daily new and old,  
 So is my love still telling what is told.

## 87

- Farewell, thou art too dear<sup>1</sup> for my possessing,  
 And like enough thou know'st thy estimate.<sup>°</sup> *value*  
 The charter<sup>°</sup> of thy worth gives thee releasing;  
 My bonds in thee are all determinate.<sup>°</sup> *privilege; deed expired*  
 5 For how do I hold thee but by thy granting,  
 And for that riches where is my deserving?  
 The cause of this fair gift in me is wanting,  
 And so my patent<sup>°</sup> back again is swerving. *title*  
 Thyself thou gav'st, thy own worth then not knowing,  
 10 Or me, to whom thou gav'st it, else mistaking;  
 So thy great gift, upon misprision<sup>°</sup> growing, *error, oversight*  
 Comes home again, on better judgement making.<sup>2</sup>  
 Thus have I had thee as a dream doth flatter.<sup>3</sup>  
 In sleep a king, but waking no such matter.

8. Facile innovation; modishness.

9. Mixture, compound words, literary compositions.

1. Precious (i.e., beloved), costly, grievous.

2. I.e., on your making a better judgment.

3. As in a flattering dream.