

Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?



William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was a famous English poet and dramatist the sixteenth century. He wrote sonnets, tragedies, comedies and historical plays. Some of his noted works are *Macbeth*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Venus and Adonis*.

Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets. Shakespearean sonnet has fourteen lines, ending in a rhymed couplet. In this poem Shakespeare enquires into the theme of the destruction brought by time and the eternal quality of art which transcends the ravages of time.

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 sometime 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 wand'rest 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 .

temperate : mild

lease : to give out something in rent

complexion : skin colour

untrimmed : uncut

brag : boast