

TO THE VIRGINS, TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME.

by Robert Herrick

GATHER ye rosebuds while ye may, _____

Old time is still a-flying : _____

And this same flower that smiles to-day _____

To-morrow will be dying. _____

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun, _____

The higher he's a-getting, _____

The sooner will his race be run, _____

And nearer he's to setting. _____

That age is best which is the first, _____

When youth and blood are warmer; _____

But being spent, the worse, and worst _____

Times still succeed the former. _____

Then be not coy, but use your time, _____

And while ye may go marry: _____

For having lost but once your prime _____

You may for ever tarry. _____

TO THE VIRGINS, TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME.

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GATHER ye rosebuds while ye may, **Get what you can out of life while you can**

Old time is still a-flying : **Time is passing rapidly**

And this same flower that smiles to-day **While you are still alive today**

To-morrow will be dying. **Because tomorrow you will be dying**

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun, **The sun which lights up the sky**

The higher he's a-getting, **The higher the sun gets in the sky,**

The sooner will his race be run, **The sooner the day is over** (the sooner you are to the end of your life)

And nearer he's to setting. **And the sooner the sun sets** (the closer to death)

That age is best which is the first, **youth is best**

When youth and blood are warmer; **when you are healthier and can enjoy life more**

But being spent, the worse, and worst **as your life gets spent and you get older**

Times still succeed the former. **Life is still better than death, so make use of your time**

Then be not coy, but use your time, **don't be shy, take advantage of your time (seize the day)**

And while ye may go marry: **and while you can, enjoy life**

For having lost but once your prime **for having lost your best years**

You may for ever tarry. **you may waste it and lose it forever**