

# “To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time”

By Robert Herrick

Gather ye rose-buds while ye may,  
Old Time is still a-flying;  
And this same flower that smiles today  
Tomorrow 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.

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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.

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Then be not coy, but use your time,  
And while ye may, go marry;  
For having lost but once your prime,  
You may forever tarry.

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Directions: After reading, annotating, and analyzing the poems, answer the following questions **on a separate piece of paper**. Be clear and do your best with the annotations. It will help you answer the questions.

### **“To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time” Questions**

1. A) What is the **theme** of the poem that is given in the first stanza? B) What will happen to the roses that “smile today”?
2. A) What **TWO metaphors** are used by Herrick in the second stanza to describe the sun (hint: one is **personification**)? B) Explain what the speaker means by the sun’s “race” being done?
3. Clearly from the third stanza, the speaker thinks that youth is better than old age. A) What is his reasoning? B) What happens once the “warmth of blood” fails?
4. In order for these young people to make their lives glorious and fulfilled, there is one specific action they must take. What, according to the speaker, is that action? (Hint: You’ll find the answer in line 14.)
5. What, according to the speaker, happens once we have “lost our prime”?