

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

## Sonnet 11

As fast as thou shalt wane<sup>1</sup>, so fast thou growest  
In one of thine, from that which thou departest<sup>2</sup>;  
And that fresh blood which youngly thou bestow'st<sup>3</sup>  
Thou mayst call thine when thou from youth convertest<sup>4</sup>.

5 Herein lives wisdom, beauty and increase<sup>5</sup>:

Without this, folly, age and cold decay:  
If all were minded so, the times should cease  
And threescore year would make the world away<sup>6</sup>.  
Let those whom Nature hath not made for store<sup>7</sup>,

10 Harsh featureless and rude, barrenly perish<sup>8</sup>:

Look, whom she best endow'd she gave thee more;  
Which bounteous gift thou shouldst in bounty cherish<sup>9</sup>:  
She carved thee for her seal<sup>10</sup>, and meant thereby  
Thou shouldst print more, not let that copy die.

*(116 words)*

<sup>1</sup>**wane** grow old – <sup>2</sup>**departest** leave behind – <sup>3</sup>**bestow'st** gave – <sup>4</sup>**convertest** change – <sup>5</sup>**increase** life – <sup>6</sup>**make the world away** end all human life on earth – <sup>7</sup>**store** breeding – <sup>8</sup>**barrenly perish** die childless – <sup>9</sup>**bounty cherish** multiply lovingly – <sup>10</sup>**seal** stamp (for making impressions in wax)