

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 56

Sweet love, renew thy force; be it not said

Thy edge¹ should blunter be than appetite²,

Which but to-day by feeding is allayed³,

To-morrow sharpened in his former might:

5 So, love, be thou, although to-day thou fill

Thy hungry eyes, even till they wink with fulness⁴,

To-morrow see again, and do not kill

The spirit of love, with a perpetual dulness.

Let this sad interim⁵ like the ocean be

10 Which parts the shore, where two contracted new⁶

Come daily to the banks, that when they see

Return of love, more blest may be the view;

As call it⁷ winter, which being full of care,

Makes summer's welcome, thrice more wished, more rare.

(112 words)

¹**edge** keenness – ²**appetite** sexual desire, lust – ³**allayed** satisfied, relieved – ⁴**wink with fulness** doze after overeating – ⁵**interim** estrangement, parting – ⁶**two contracted new** newly engaged lovers – ⁷**As call it** or call the interim