

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

## Sonnet 94

They that have power to hurt and will do none,  
That do not do the thing they most do show,  
Who, moving others, are themselves as stone,  
Unmoved, cold, and to temptation slow,

5 They rightly do inherit heaven's graces<sup>1</sup>

And husband<sup>2</sup> nature's riches from expense<sup>3</sup>;

They are the lords and owners of their faces,

Others but stewards<sup>4</sup> of their excellence<sup>5</sup>.

The summer's flower is to the summer sweet,

10 Though to itself it only live and die,

But if that flower with base infection<sup>6</sup> meet,

The basest weed outbraves<sup>7</sup> his dignity<sup>8</sup>:

For sweetest things turn sourest by their deeds;

Lilies<sup>9</sup> that fester smell far worse than weeds.

*(106 words)*

<sup>1</sup>**heaven's graces** divine gifts – <sup>2</sup>**husband** carefully protect – <sup>3</sup>**expense** waste – <sup>4</sup>**stewards** managers – <sup>5</sup>**excellence** finer passions, noble qualities – <sup>6</sup>**base infection** corruption – <sup>7</sup>**outbraves** surpasses, is more splendid than – <sup>8</sup>**his dignity** its beauty – <sup>9</sup>**Lilies** flowers symbolising purity