

structure: metaphor shifts to each stanza

Sonnet 73
William Shakespeare

That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.

① autumn
winter looming

nostalgia for what's lost

In me thou seest the twilight of such day
As after sunset fadeth in the west,
Which by and by black night doth take away,
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.

② evening
night looming

In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,
As the death-bed whereon it must expire
Consumed with that which it was nourish'd by.

③ embers
ashes looming

This thou perceivest, which makes thy love more strong,
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

④ love

phoenix myth
death is inevitable
"must" =

Love is more intense, and precious, because human existence is fleeting. We treasure more what we know cannot last.

with notes
relationship
REP 9
"Thou'st thy" = familiar (promises)
* volta →
perceiving
seeing
understanding