

contrasting metaphors:

- ocean, beach (earthly)
- heavens (celestial)

Sonnet 75
Edmund Spenser

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,
 But came the waves and washed it away:
 Again I wrote it with a second hand,
 But came the tide, and made my pains his prey.

① man's futile actions

tide ⇒ time
personified as predator

"Vain man," said she, "that dost in vain assay,

A mortal thing so to immortalize,

For I myself shall like to this decay,

And eek my name by wiped out likewise."

② woman's critical comment

realistic

"Not so," quod I, "let baser things devise,

To die in dust, but you shall live by fame.

③ man's optimistic response

My verse your virtues rare shall eternize,

And in the heavens write your glorious name.

idealistic

Where whenas death shall all the world subdue,

Our love shall live, and later life renew."

④ man's final assertion

alliteration for emphasis

Love allows man to triumph over time and death and earthly constraints.

REP
anaphora

dialogue

hyperbole
volta

futility
to attempt