

The Sun Rising ⑤

The Sun rising is a beautiful love poem.

Composed by John Donne, the leader of the metaphysical school of Poetry in English literature. Donne has brought about a rebellious but progressive revolution into the traditional world of Poetry. His poems are marked by extravagant conceits, ingenious imageries, and refined wits. His Love poems are more critical and logical than emotional. He does not treat his beloved with a hush-hush style of adoration and flattery. He does not describe her rosy cheeks and creamy breasts. He is free, frank and fearless both in his amorous and devotional poems. In the given poem, 'The Sun Rising' he talks of the reciprocated love where the lover finds a kind of blissful contentment in the close company of his beloved. Let us see the poem in a brief.

The Sun Rising is a love poem par excellence. It celebrates the most elevated consummation of married love. It is the charming time of dawn. The Sun has also risen. But the lovers do not feel fresh. They do not have, as yet, the full dose of sleep and rest after their night keeping and love making. They are still in the state of drowsiness. In the meantime, the sun beams peep into the lover's bed through the windows and curtains. The lovers get disturbed. Consequently, the lover, the poet, becomes angry and chides the unyielding sun. That is the Sun must know its duty as well as its limitation. It must know that lovers are not bound by the changes that are caused by its movements. The poet calls it an affected old wretch and asks it to chide the late school going boys, office goers,

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Courtiers and Countrymen (6) It must not trespass.

Love is beyond and above time: The poet says

"Saucy pedantic wretches, go chide

Late school boys and sour prentices

Go tell Court-hunters that the King will side

Call Country ants to harvest offices

Love all alike, no season knows nor climate,

Nor hours, days, months, which are the rays of time

The lover is so agitated at the Sun's guilt of a breach of etiquette that he belittles its might and declares that its rays are not so effective or so reverend. He warns the Sun not to gaze at his beloved's eyes. Its searching rays may blind the common people but the bright eyes of his beloved will certainly blind the Sun itself. This expression may appear to be illogical, but this is the distinct tone of Love who is in the Heaven of Love. This is the metaphorical way of expression. If death may die, why not the Sun be blind. However, it does not mean that the Sun does not rise. It must rise but not at the cost of Lover's enjoyment.

"Thy beams so reverend, and strong
Why should that think?

I could eclipse and cloud them with a wink
But that I would not lose her sight so long."

The mood of the agitated lover subsides when he realises the laws of Nature that govern the Sun. Then he asks the Sun to look through the world and tell him whether they are not lying in his bed. Similarly, the Kings whom it sees in the different part of the world, can be found

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together in their bed room. Their little room
is a world in itself. He says

"Look and transition late till one
watches both the lovers of Epicure and mine
For where thou lovest them, or be here with me.
Ask for these things whom thou sawest yesterday
And thou shalt hear, "All here in the bed lay"

The lover further asks the Sun to show
just around their bed, which is the centre of
the earth. He calls it "a buoy old fool" for it
has been covering millions of miles. Since its birth
it has given light and life to the inmates of
the world. But the world does not care for it because
the whole world lies compressed and compac-
ted in the lovers' bed. So it must revolve only
around the lovers' bed, because they are all in
all to each other and nothing else matters to them.
Princes merely imitate them to be as happy as they
are compared to the glory of their love. All other
honours and glories are mere mockeries. The
Lover says -

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"Shine all states, and all princes I,
Nothing else is.

Princes do but play us compared to this
All honour's mimic, all wealth alchemy."

Then the lover, out of pity, advises the aged Sun
to remain only here around the bed. It should
no more cover so long a circle, when it performs
its duty in warming the contented lovers. The
Sun is suggested to

"Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere

This bed thy Centre is these walls thy sphere."

Thus, we see that the Sun Rising is an ex-
traordinary metaphysical poem of Love. The physical

with metaphysical touches, is elevated to
the height of the spiritual one. It speaks
of Donne's individual poetic talent that is
obviously distinct from the traditional one.
It is really a precious contribution to the
English poetry.

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