

# **The Sunne Rising**

**by John Donne**

**U.G. Semester IV**

**MJC – 07**

**Unit 2**

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The Sunne Rising is a poem by the English metaphysical poet John Donne, published in the early 17th century. It is one of his most famous poems, studied for its wit and passion as well as its exploration of love, time, and the cosmos.

## Summary and Analysis

The speaker, whose iambic tetrameter lines are sonnets rather than iambic tetrameter lines, delivers the poem in dramatic monologue to the sun, whom he describes as an intruding, unwelcome guest. The speaker, who is lying in bed with his lover, reproaches the sun for intruding on their love and privacy. The three stanzas of the poem develop the speaker's argument against the authority of the sun.

1. First Stanza: The sun is a "busy old fool" who does its daily work, but it shouldn't interrupt the lovers. Love doesn't care about time or season, he says, so the sun can go away and bother less important people.
2. Second Stanza: The speaker boasts that his lover is brighter and more powerful than the sun. He says he could block out the sun's light if only he closed his eyes, but he doesn't do that because he doesn't want to lose sight of his lover. This stanza takes the lovers' relationship to a cosmic level, suggesting that their love is greater than the natural world.

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3. Third Stanza: The lover is the sun, and his bed is the world, he says. The sun should shine on them, because their love is all kingdoms and all riches. The poem ends by saying that the bed is the destination of the sun, and the lover's room is its rightful dome.

Themes

Love vs. Time: This poem describes how the sun revolves every day, but love is eternal. The speaker says love is not bound by time.

Metaphysical conceit: The lovers' bed is compared to the world and the sun to a servant in a metaphysical conceit typical of Donne's style.

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Human v. Cosmic Scale: Donne elevates human love to cosmic scale, suggesting that the world of lovers is more important than the sun's vast domain.

Literary Devices

Personification: The sun is personified as a meddling and nosy figure.

Hyperbole: He makes exaggerated statements about his love to show how powerful and important it is.

Imagery: Images contrast the lovers' bed (warm and close) with the cold world outside.

Significance:

The Sun Rising is a prime example of metaphysical poetry in its intellectual rigor, emotional intensity, and imaginative use of metaphor. The poem demonstrates Donne's skill at combining the personal and the universal, and in so doing it makes a profound statement about love and its relationship to the universe. The poem remains a timeless meditation on human relationships and their resistance to external forces.

Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam