

EDMUND SPENSER's Sonnet LXXV from his Sonnet Sequence AMORETTI

Sonnet : LXXV - One Day I Wrote her Name

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**.

"Vain man," said she, "that dost in vain **assay**,
A mortal thing so to **immortalize**;
For I myself shall like to this **decay**,
And eke my name be wiped out **likewise**."

"Not so," (quod I) "let baser things **devise**
To die in dust, but you shall live by **fame**:
My verse your vertues rare shall **eternize**,
And in the heavens write your glorious **name**:"

Where whenas death shall all the world **subdue**,
Our love shall live, and later life **renew**."

** The colours of the final words reflect the Rhyme Pattern used by Spenser- ABAB BCBC CDCD EE. A Spenserian sonnet comprises three interlocked quatrains and concluding couplet.

** A sonnet is a lyric consisting of fourteen pentameter lines, arranged in definite stanza structure and rhymes scheme.

** The three popular sonnet forms are:

- i) Italian or Petrarchan sonnet,
- ii) English or Shakespearean sonnet
- iii) Spenserian sonnet

The Italian sonnet, also known as the Petrarchan or conventional sonnet is structurally divided into an octave and a sestet. An Octave consists of eight verse lines rhyming abba abba, and a sestet comprising of six lines rhyme cdccdc/ cdcdcd / cdecde.

The English sonnet, popularly known as Shakespearean sonnet is structurally divided in to three quatrains and a final couplet with the rhyme scheme abab cdcd efef gg. The Spenserian sonnet resembles the structure of English Sonnet , however, it earns its identity owing to the interlocking rhyme scheme abab bcbc cdcd ee.

** The sonnet was introduced to England by Sir Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard (earl of Surrey), in the 16th century. 5 June 1557 Richard Tottel, an English publisher from London published the anthology of the duo- *Songes and Sonettes* - in 1557. It is also popularly known as *Tottel's Miscellany* and credited as the book to introduce sonnet to English literature.

** Briefly the thought of the sonnet- **One Day I Wrote her Name**

In these lines, the speaker recounts how he wrote his beloved's name in the sand, but the waves washed it away. He tried again with a second attempt, but the tide also erased it. Having seen this, the beloved tells the speaker that it's futile to try to immortalize a mortal being, as both she and her name will eventually disappear. However, the speaker insists that his poetry will immortalize her virtues and inscribe her name in the heavens. He believes that their love will persist even when death conquers the world, bringing renewed life in the future.