

*“Busy old fool, unruly Sun,
Why dost thou thus,
Through windows, and through curtains, call on us?”*

Donne's biographer, John Stubbs, claimed that this poem was an indirect attack on Sir George More. The poem begins with an angry tone, and this is strange as, despite it being a love poem, it opens with an insult. The questions Donne asks shows a debate between them. The sun as a guest should respect and obey them.

*Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run?
Saucy pedantic wretch, go chide
Late schoolboys, and sour prentices.
Go tell court huntsmen that the King will ride,
Call country ants to harvest offices,”*

They don't have to abide by the laws of time but there is also a sense of laws as Donne recalls the institutions he has been excluded from due to his loss of position in society. There love is out of real time. 'Country ants' is a reference to the farmers who would have worked in the morning. The 'motions' referred to is the rise and setting of the sun.

*“Love, all alike, no season knows, nor clime,
Nor hours, days, months, which are the rags of time.”*

Time is personified here to show that Donne and his lover will not be slaves to time. The sun cannot tell them what to do- their love is static and immutable. Their love stays the same, no matter what changes in the world.

Stanza Two

*“Thy beams, so reverend and strong
Why should'st thou thin?
I could eclipse and cloud them with a wink,
But that I would not lose her sight so long:”*

Donne is mocking the strength of the sun, as their love is stronger. His 'eclipse' shows his position of power over the sun. The assonance and chiasmus here, in 'I' and 'thy' shows the audacity of his ability to eclipse the sun. Donne gives himself power- he would not close his eyes because he would not see his love for even a second. The sun is used as a conceit for people who may interrupt them.

*“If her eyes have not blinded thine,
Look, and tomorrow late, tell me
Whether both the Indias of spice and mine
Be where thou lefst them, or lie here with me.”*

Her eyes could blind the sun. Here, we are presented with geographical imagery of the West Indies (islands of the Caribbean) and of the East Indies (India). There is imagery of discovery also created here as the West Indies were discovered at the same time as America.

*“Ask for those kings whom thou saw'st yesterday,
And thou shalt hear: 'All here in one bed lay'.”*

There is further imagery of contraction presented here- the sun revolves around them, and the earth contracts into their bed, which Carol Rumens called 'alternative erotic cosmology'. Their love has placed them where they belong- everything must reorientate itself around them.