

# The sun rising

## - METAPHYSICAL POETS -

- *The Sun Rising* is a thirty-line poem with three stanzas, published in 1633. The poem explores love's timelessness, challenging the sun's authority and highlighting love's precedence over worldly concerns and duties.

The poem begins with the speaker addressing the sun as an "unruly," "busy old fool". The speaker is in bed with his lover and is annoyed by the sun's intrusion through the windows and curtains. He challenges the sun's authority, asking why lovers' seasons must run to its motions.

The speaker then tells the sun to go and chide late schoolboys and sour apprentices, tell court huntsmen that the king will ride, and call country ants to harvest offices. He asserts that love knows no season, climate, hours, days, or months, which he refers to as the "lags of time".

In the second stanza, the speaker claims that he could eclipse and cloud the sun's beams with a wink, but he would not want to lose sight of his lover for so long. He asks the sun to look and tell him tomorrow whether both the Indias of sun and mine are where the sun left them or lie here with him.

In the final stanza, the speaker declares that his lover's "all states, and all princes" and that he is nothing else. He suggests that compared to their love, all honor is mimicry and all wealth is a chimney. He tells the sun that it is only half as happy as they are because its duty is to warm the world, and that's done in warming them. He concludes by telling the sun to shine here to them, and it will be everywhere. Their bed is the sun's center, and their walls are its sphere.

Overall, the poem is playful in tone, full of hyperbole (exaggeration) and wit, but with the serious purpose of extolling the vastness, timelessness, and beauty of love between a couple. The sun, beyond its natural significance, becomes a metaphor for authority, order, and the external world.