

Sonnet 19 Full Poem

Writer: William Shakespeare | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Sonnet 19 is one of 154 sonnets published by the English playwright and poet William Shakespeare in 1609. Read the full poem here.

Sonnet 19: Devouring Time, blunt thou the lion's paws

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Devouring Time, blunt thou the lion's paws,
And make the earth devour her own sweet brood;
Pluck the keen teeth from the fierce tiger's jaws,
And burn the long-liv'd Phoenix in her blood;
Make glad and sorry seasons as thou fleets,
And do whate'er thou wilt, swift-footed Time,
To the wide world and all her fading sweets;
But I forbid thee one more heinous crime:
O, carve not with thy hours my love's fair brow,
Nor draw no lines there with thine antique pen!
Him in thy course untainted do allow
For beauty's pattern to succeeding men.
Yet do thy worst, old Time! Despite thy wrong
My love shall in my verse ever live young.