

Sonnet 73: That time of year thou mayst in me behold

Quotations

Writer: William Shakespeare | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

"That time of year thou mayst in me behold

When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang"

Explanation:

Here, the poet is comparing himself with late autumn, when the tree leaves turn into yellow and fall down. It means he is in his old age.

"In me thou see'st the twilight of such day"

Explanation:

The poet compares himself to twilight, when the light of the day fades in the west. Night comes. This comparison shows that the poet is near his death.

"In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire

That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,"

Explanation:

The poet also compares himself to a dying fire that burns weakly on its own ashes. Just like the fire, his life is coming to an end.

"This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,"

Explanation:

Though the poet is near his death, his beloved continues to love him deeply. In fact, his beloved loves him even more because they know that their time together is short.