

1818

**TO ("TIME'S SEA HATH BEEN FIVE YEARS AT ITS
SLOW EBB")**

John Keats

Keats, John (1795-1821) - Widely regarded as the most talented of the English romantic poets, Keats, whose work was poorly received during his lifetime, could not have foreseen his later recognition. Ironically, he wrote for his own epitaph: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." To- (Time's sea hath been five years ...) (1818) - Opening lines: Time's sea hath been five years at its slow ebb, / Long hours have to and fro let creep the sand, ...

TO TIMES SEA HATH BEEN

Time's sea hath been five years at its slow ebb,
Long hours have to and fro let creep the sand,
Since I was tangled in thy beauty's web,
And snared by the ungloving of thine hand.
And yet I never look on midnight sky,
But I behold thine eyes' well memoried light;
I cannot look upon the rose's dye,
But to thy cheek my soul doth take its flight.
I cannot look on any budding flower,
But my fond ear, in fancy at thy lips
And hearkening for a love-sound, doth devour
Its sweets in the wrong sense:- Thou dost eclipse
Every delight with sweet remembering,
And grief unto my darling joys dost bring.

THE END