

1648

TO THE VIRGINS, TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME

Robert Herrick

Herrick, Robert (1591-1674) - English poet best known for his love lyrics and pastoral verses. A clergyman, he lost his parish (it was later restored) because of Royalist sympathies. A follower of Ben Jonson, or one of the “sons of Ben,” Herrick published only one volume of verse in his lifetime. To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time (1648) - One of the most popular songs of the 17th century. It opens with the well-known lines: Gather ye Rosebuds while ye may, / Old Time is still a flying: ...

TO THE VIRGINS

GATHER ye Rose-buds while ye may,
Old Time is still a flying;
And this same flower that smiles to day,
To morrow will be dying.

The glorious Lamp of Heaven, the Sun,
The higher he's a getting;
The sooner will his Race be run,
And neerer he's to Setting.

That Age is best, which is the first,
When Youth and Blood are warmer;
But being spent, the worse, and worst
Times, still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time;
And while ye may, goe marry:
For having lost but once your prime,
You may for ever tarry.

THE END