

// Before you read

1. What ideas or sensations do you associate to the rising sun?
Discuss the question in pairs.
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Ex. 1

- B**usy old fool, unruly¹ Sun,
Why dost thou thus,
Through windows, and through curtains, call on us?
Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run?
- 5 Saucy² pedantic wretch³, go chide⁴
Late school-boys and sour prentices⁵,
Go tell court-huntsmen that the king will ride,
Call country ants⁶ to harvest offices;
Love, all alike⁷, no season knows nor clime,
10 Nor hours, days, months, which are the rags⁸ of time.

Thy beams so reverend, and strong
Why shouldst thou think?

Thy beams so reverend, and strong

Look, and to-morrow late tell me,
Whether both th' Indias of spice and mine¹⁰
Be where thou left'st them, or lie here with me.
Ask for those kings whom thou saw'st yesterday,
20 And thou shalt hear, "All here in one bed lay."

She's all states, and all princes I;
Nothing else is;
Princes do but play us; compared to this,
All honour's mimic¹¹, all wealth alchemy.
25 Thou, Sun, art half as happy as we,
In that the world's contracted¹² thus; _____
Thine age asks ease, and since thy duties be
To warm the world, that's done in warming us.
Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere;
30 This bed thy centre is, these walls thy sphere.

1 > "In that" refers to THEIR LOVE

unruly: indisciplinato

Saucy: sfacciato

wretch: birbante, farabutto

chide: sgridare

prentices: apprendisti

6. ants: contadini (letteralmente, formiche)

7. all alike: immutabile

8. rags: frammenti (letteralmente, stracci)

9. wink: batter d'occhio

10. th' Indias of spice and mine: le Indie delle spezie e delle miniere

11. mimic: imitazione

12. contracted: si è contratto



CD1-40

after 1603. The metre and

» Understanding the text

1. Read stanza 1 and answer the questions.

- a. Underline all the expressions the poet uses to address the Sun. Are they positive or negative?
- b. What should the Sun do according to the poet? Match the expressions.
The Sun should...

1. ☒ b send the farmers

2. ☒ d let

3. ☒ c tell off

4. ☒ a leave

a. the lovers alone

b. to the fields

c. late pupils and apprentices

d. the courtiers know that the king is going hunting

- c. Why should the Sun not rule the lovers' time? (ll. 9-10)?

2. Now read stanza 2 to discover more about the lovers.

- a. The poet further challenges the Sun, defying its power. How would the poet eclipse the power of the Sun? And why doesn't he do so after all?

- b. With a f
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