**SONNET 73**

That time of year thou may'st in me behold   
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang  
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,   
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.   
In me thou see'st the twilight of such day,   
As after sunset fadeth in the west,   
Which by-and-by black night doth take away,  
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.   
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire   
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,   
As the death-bed whereon it must expire   
Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by.   
   This thou perceivest, which makes thy love more strong,  
   To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

Considering the title the reader can understand the poem belongs to a collection because it is represented by a number “LXXIII”.

The layout shows the poem follows the Shakespearean model thus there are 14 lines organised in three quatrains and a couplet.

This sonnet contains many of the themes common throughout the entire body of sonnets, including the ravages of time on one's physical well-being and the mental anguish associated with moving further from youth and closer to death. Time's destruction of great monuments juxtaposed with the effects of age on human beings.

The speaker invokes a series of metaphors to characterize the nature of what he perceives to be his old age. In the first quatrain, he tells the beloved that his age is like a “time of year,” late autumn, when the leaves have almost completely fallen from the trees, the weather has grown cold and the birds have left their branches. In the second quatrain, he then says that his age is like late twilight, “As after sunset fadeth in the west,” and the remaining light is slowly extinguished in the darkness, which the speaker likens to “Death’s second self.” In the third quatrain, the speaker compares himself to the glowing remnants of a fire, which lies “on the ashes of his youth”—that is, on the ashes of the logs that once enabled it to burn—and which will soon be consumed “by that which it was nourished by”—that is, it will be extinguished as it sinks into the ashes, which its own burning created. In the couplet, the speaker tells the young man that he must perceive these things, and that his love must be strengthened by the knowledge that he will soon be parted from the speaker when the speaker, like the fire, is extinguished by time.