Sonnet LXXIII

Considering the title the intelligent reader understands that the sonnet belongs to a collection, maybe to the collection dedicated to a “fair youth”.

Considering the layout the intelligent reader understands that the sonnet follows the Elizabethan structure and it does not follow the Petrarch’s one. It is organize into three quatrain and a couple of rhyming. The three quatrains presents a problem or situation and the couplet solves or summarises the problem. The rhyme scheme is: in the first quatrain ABAB, in the second quatrain CDCD, in the third quatrain EFEF and in the couplet is GG.

The central theme of the sonnet is the growing old of the poet. In the first quatrain he compares himself to autumn, he compare his growing old to the fall of the leaves. In the second quatrain he compares himself with the sunset. The first and the second quatrain are connected because both compare the poet with something of the nature. The second quatrain is different to the first quatrain because in the second quatrain there is a reference to himself while in the first quatrain the poet does not refer to himself. The third quatrain is connects with the second quatrain with the anaphora of “me” (the anaphora is the repetition of the words at the begging of the verse). Finally the poem ends with the rhyming couplet that resumes the content of the previous stanzas, the poet explains that the “fair youth” understands that the poet is growing old, thus he loves the poet anyway.

Taking into consideration the connotative level in the first line the world “thou” means the subject “you”. In the fourth line there is a personification (you attribute human qualities with qualities not human) In the seventh line “black night” is a metaphor of death. The semantic level is related to the field of nature. In the couplet “more strong” is a linguistic deviation indeed the comparative is formed by adding “-er” to the adjective when it is monosyllable as in this case.

In short, the poet tells that the ”fair youth” appreciates the poet even if he is growing old. The poet wanted that people enjoy the moment.