

"Leave me, O Love, which reachest but to dust"

BY SIR PHILIP SIDNEY

Leave me, O Love, which reachest but to dust;
And thou, my mind, aspire to higher things;
Grow rich in that which never taketh rust;
Whatever fades but fading pleasure brings.
Draw in thy beams and humble all thy might
To that sweet yoke where lasting freedoms be;
Which breaks the clouds and opens forth the light,
That doth both shine and give us sight to see.
O take fast hold; let that light be thy guide
In this small course which birth draws out to death,
And think how evil becometh him to slide,
Who seeketh heav'n, and comes of heav'nly breath.
Then farewell, world; thy uttermost I see:
Eternal Love, maintain thy life in me.

"Leave me, O Love, which reachest but to dust" *summary*

This poem questions many concepts such as love, materialism, religion, afterlife, and divinity. The beginning starts with the idea that love is fading away. And while this physical love leaves, one is supposed to focus their attention on higher things rather than physical. The fading of this love was meant to be and left one with a higher purpose and a better direction to go in life. Happiness and the freedom to not care about such materialistic things will lead to lasting freedom. With a clear mind, life will be easier in all aspects. And in this transition to a clear state of mind and happiness, religion and divine power (often symbolized by light) can be a guide. Life is short, and although one may lose their way, tempted by sin and short-lived thrills, those that maintain religion and do not let themselves stray will see heaven after they pass. This poem mentions that death is the last thing that is certain in life, but those that have religion are comfortable with death because they know they will have a promising after life. And this eternal love, not for another person but for one's self, shall live on forever inside them. Human love, but rather the divine love or spiritual love." This makes a lot of sense because in no part of the poem was love connected to a physical being. They also note that although the piece has a

definite Christian feeling to it, some of the metaphors and phrases used have never been directly clarified and it is up to the reader to take interpretation from them.

Leave me, O Love's Themes

This sonnet explores the themes of love, death, and mortality, and the ways in which these universal experiences shape our lives and our relationships. Sidney portrays love as fleeting and ephemeral, capable of bringing joy and happiness, but ultimately doomed to fade away like dust. The theme of death is another prominent aspect of the sonnet, with Sidney portraying death as a lover, embracing everything in its path and sealing it up in rest. The theme of mortality is also central to the sonnet, with Sidney contemplating the inevitability of his own death, and the ways in which it will impact his relationship with love.

Leave me, O love's figures of speech.

1. Simile: "Love is like a rose, beautiful yet prickly."
2. Metaphor: "His heart is a stone, cold and unyielding."
3. Personification: "Love knocked on my door, begging to be let in."
4. Hyperbole: "I have a million butterflies in my stomach when I'm in love."
5. Oxymoron: "Bittersweet love" or "jumbo shrimp."
6. Alliteration: "Lost in the labyrinth of love."
7. Onomatopoeia: "Love whispered softly in my ear."