

Sonnet 29

Page No.:

1

Date:

youva

William Shakespeare

Dr. Mithalesh Kumar Manjhi
Dept. of English
J. N. College, Madhubani.

Degree - I (English Hons.)
Paper - II Vout - I
Sonnet - 29

"Sonnet 29" is one of the best sonnets written by William Shakespeare. Shakespeare is known as the best dramatist of the world in English literature. He wrote 154 sonnets. The present sonnet addresses W. H. who is bosom friend of Shakespeare. It is a fourteen lined poem usually written in iambic pentameter. This Shakespearean sonnet consists of one octave and sestet. There are two constructive lines of verse in a couplet, usually in the same meter and joined by rhyme. This sonnet ends with a couplet, which usually reveals the central idea of the poem or a concluding thought. The rhyme scheme followed by the entire sonnet is **ABAB CDCD EBEF, FF**. This sonnet glorifies the positive attributes of true love.

The poem begins with the description of the speaker's discontent and his lamentation over the miserable plight of life.

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweep my outcast state
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries
And look upon myself and curse my fate
Wishing I were like one more rich in hope
Featured like him, like him with friends possessed
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope
With what I most enjoy contented rest.

The speaker says through these lines that he

Sonnet 29

Page No.: 2

Date:

youva

He has fallen out of favour with fortune and men. He feels lonely and weeps over his position as a social outcast. He prays to heaven but his cries go unheard. He curses his poor fate for his miserable condition. He also feels abandoned and useless. He wishes to be rich, satisfied, and fortunate like them but meets only failures and disappointments. After cursing his present sad state, he suddenly talks about a special person and his mood changes in a dramatic way. This thought of love provides him immense pleasure and removes his negative feelings. This magical effect of love eradicates his sorrow and makes him feel special.

In short, this sonnet reveals self-motivation. The poem also explains how love brings optimism and hope for people who feel lonely and oppressed. The major themes of this poem are anxiety, love and jealousy. It also illustrates the power and impact of true love.