

Sonnet 64

By

William Shakespeare

When I have seen by Time's fell hand defaced
The rich-proud cost of outworn buried age,
When sometime lofty towers I see down-rased,
And brass eternal slave to mortal rage.

When I have seen the hungry ocean gain
Advantage on the kingdom of the shore,
And the firm soil win of the watery main,
Increasing store with loss, and loss with store.

When I have seen such interchange of State,
Or state it self confounded, to decay,
Ruin hath taught me thus to ruminare
That Time will come and take my love away.

 This thought is as a death which cannot choose
 But weep to have, that which it fears to lose.