

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the three poems of Robert Herrick, “To the Virgin to Make Much of Time,” “To a Bed of Tulips,” and “Upon a Delaying Lady,” I would like to draw some conclusion from my analysis. In my opinion, all of those three poems are worth analyzing. After determining the dictions to reveal the theme of each poem, I have discovered a great deal of knowledge on how Robert Herrick as a Cavalier poet lived and applied the concept of *carpe diem*.

In the first poem, “To the Virgins to Make Much of Time,” Herrick urges women to make the most of their time by living their youth and getting married while they still have plenty of time and opportunity to do it. Through analyzing the dictions, I reveal the theme of the poem that is **“Women should live out their youth by urging themselves to get married while they still have the opportunity to do it because youth is limited and short.”** Herrick addresses this poem to young women, as can be seen from the word *virgins* which clearly refers to them. In this poem, Herrick talks about the concept of time. Herrick uses the word *rosebuds* which symbolize youth because both of them do not last long. He

also compares the brevity of human life to the short cycle of the sun. In this poem, Herrick seems to remind and urge young women that the best time to live their lives is when they are still young. At their young age, they still have plenty of time and opportunity to be able to do anything they want, they could get married at their young age as it can be seen from the word *marry*.

In the second poem, “To a Bed of Tulips,” Herrick reminds young women about the brevity of human lives; therefore, he urges young woman to appreciate and immediately live their youth before everything is too late. The theme of this poem is, **“Time flies so fast so women need to appreciate and live their youth to the fullest while they still have time before they turn old and the death comes.”** In this poem, Herrick chooses the words *tulips* and *virgins* to represent that this poem is clearly addressed to young women. Herrick portrays the brevity of human lives through the word *fading-time* and the concept of time between the life of human’s and tulips through the word *tulips* because both have limited life span. The words *wither*, *bemoan*, and *die* are also used to emphasize the effect of time that flies so fast; therefore, before young women lose their time, they should immediately live their youth to the fullest.

Through the third poem, “Upon a Delaying Lady,” which theme is **“A woman should not waste an opportunity that comes to her by responding the love from the man she loves, or else that opportunity will leave her.”** Herrick urges a woman not to waste her time to take the opportunity that comes to her. Based on the analysis of the poem, the woman will probably get the opportunity to be with the man she loves if she immediately decides her feeling towards the man. Through the word *lady*, Herrick directly addresses this poem to the woman.

Herrick uses the words *delay*, *stay*, and *slow* to represent the time wasted by the woman. The words *spark* and *the peeping fire* in this poem represent and show the man's love. It also can be seen as the opportunity that comes to the woman. The dictions *spark* and *the peeping fire* which turn to *frost* and *snow* represent the result of wasting time. In this context, Herrick seems to portray that time is short just like the peeping fire which might be greater if it is continuously blown or turn to frost and snow if it is ignored. It seems like the time or the opportunity that is wasted in vain, it will not be had back.

There are some similarities through the dictions which are used and the themes which are revealed in each poem. The first similarity is, all Robert Herrick's poems that has been analyzed are addressed to women. It can be seen from the dictions that Herrick uses in each poem to represent young women, they are: *virgins*, *rosebuds*, *tulips*, *sisterhood*, and *lady*. These dictions refer to the characteristics of women.

The second similarity is, all themes are about the concept of Carpe diem or living the life to the fullest that means living every moment in life fully and effectively. The similarity is shown through each poem in which Herrick always urges young women to live and appreciate their lives by living it to the fullest or taking opportunity that comes to them. Robert Herrick is a Cavalier poet, who lived in the reign of King Charles I in 17th Century. He seems highly influenced by the situation that happened at that time. The people of England, especially soldiers and people who are loyal to Charles I lived in the middle of English Civil War and deadly diseases. That condition explains that at that time what will happen in their lives is unpredictable and every day might be their last day to live.

That condition explains the reason why Herrick as a Cavalier poet believes in Carpe diem.

The third similarity is, as a Cavalier poet, Herrick believes that time is short and limited for human beings so everyone has to live every moment in their lives fully. Through those poems, Herrick focuses on the speed of time and shows different analogies through each poem by using the dictions that describe the limited and swiftness of time. They are: *old-times*, *sun* through its cycle, *today and tomorrow*, *dying*, *tulips* through its life, *fading-time*, *wither*, *die*, *frailties*, and *the peeping fire* which turns to be *frost*, and *snow*.

Another similarity is Herrick uses some analogies as analogies by using the dictions that show element of nature in each poem. For example, in the first poem, Herrick uses the words: *rosebuds* and *sun*. In the second poem, Herrick uses the words: *tulips* and *flower*. In the third poem, Herrick uses: *spark*, *the peeping fire*, *frost*, and *snow*.

Last but not least, I would like to say that those three poems of Robert Herrick are proven as worth reading poems because they have provided me the knowledge about the lives of the Cavalier poets in the 17th Century in England. They also have given me the knowledge that Carpe diem concept in these poems has a deeper awareness and understanding that bring a different & unique nuance of life than other literary works. Through those Carpe diem poems, I learn that Carpe diem is a powerful expression that applies in certain aspects in life to all, making the most out of life is the main goal for most people. We have to appreciate our precious time and make it becomes worth living. If we waste it, all

that we can get is only regret because once the time has passed we cannot be able to turn it back.

