

Chapter 4

Conclusion

The concept of Carpe Diem that is expressed in the seventeenth century poetry reflects that time limits human life and reminds one to use the goods that the world offers and to take chances in life. The positive values found from the concept of Carpe Diem are taking time and youth to be used wisely and creating happiness and joy in life before they are lost and gone forever. Those positive values from the concept of Carpe Diem are found after analyzing each of the poets' ways through diction or the choice of words, imagery, allusion, tone, and figures of speech including irony, metaphor, simile, personification, symbol, hyperbole, understatement, synecdoche, and metonymy. From the use of those tools by each poet in the poems, I find that time is the major factor in each poem to emphasize the importance of taking action now. Since life is limited and time is the truly scarce source so it is important to take advantage of the moments they currently have and express the love to one another.

In John Donne's "The Anniversary," the concept of Carpe Diem in this poem is obvious in the speaker's declaration that their love is true and everlasting even though all things may decay. There are conceits or extended metaphors that compare the noble speaker and his lady to royalties. Besides, there are the uses of diction and tones that show their love is true, the many kinds of imagery of the graves that follow death, and the figures of speech such as the personification and metonymy of the sun for time. All of these express John Donne's concept of Carpe Diem that finally they will die, so while they are still living "Let us love nobly, and live, and add again / Years and years unto years," (lines 28-29).

In Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress," the concept of Carpe Diem is expressed through the structure of the poem, which is divided into three sections. This division, which starts each section with: "Had" (if we had), "But" and "Now, therefore" is Marvell's arguments to persuade the lady to take action or seize the day. Through the speaker, Marvell says, "If we have enough time." But in reality they do not have enough time since death is approaching. Therefore, now, they have to "make it run". The usage of diction, imagery, irony, hyperbole,

personification, understatement, metonymy of the sun, the allusions to the Bible and mythology, the shifting tone from slow pace to speeding, from humorous to ironic, and the lots of metaphors show the quick passing of time, that they cannot control time and the urgency of doing something now.

In Ben Jonson's "Song: To Celia I," the concept of Carpe Diem is stated explicitly when the speaker Volpone persuades Corvino's wife Celia to make the best of time by having an affair with him. The idea that time will not belong to them forever and the personification of time as someone who can sever them give a sense of the urgency of seizing the day or having sex in order to attain the pleasure of love. All the diction, imagery, tone, allusion, and figures of speech including metaphor, symbol and synecdoche show Volpone's arguments that they must do an action now since time is limited and it is the way to enjoy life.

In Robert Herrick's "To the Virgins to Make Much of Time," the poet clearly expresses the Carpe Diem concept by using the diction "rosebuds" as a symbol of chances or youth that do not last long; and also as a metaphor or personification of the virgins that similarly to the rosebuds do not live long either. This is the way of Herrick to arouse the sense of urgency or immediacy to seize the opportunity that knocks at the door. The figures of speech and imagery used to describe the sun are to give the sense that time is flying or fleeting. This is also Herrick's way to encourage the virgins to use their youth by not being coy because once they lose their youth, and they will regret the loss of their prime.

In Robert Herrick's "Corinna's Going A-Maying," the concept of Carpe Diem is expressed through combining the characteristics of paganism and Christianity in the Mayday celebration. The speaker persuades the young virgins to get out, enjoy the moment, get love and go marry. The use of diction, imperative tones, allusions to mythology and the Bible, some imagery of nature, and figures of speech, show Herrick's arguments of the urgency of seizing the day.

After analyzing those poems above, I come to a conclusion that people should not live as if they would live forever. Time is a gift and it is very valuable since it is limited. Therefore, people should be responsible for their life and be wise in using their time and life. Only then will life become worthy living if

people are aware of the importance of Carpe Diem or to seize the day. Therefore, I conclude that the Carpe Diem concept or seizing the day can be used as one of various points of view in life to make life worthy, useful, and enjoyable by putting the positive values of the Carpe Diem concept into practice.