

# Sonnet 55: Not marble nor the gilded monuments

By William Shakespeare

Not marble nor the gilded monuments  
Of princes shall outlive this powerful rhyme,  
But you shall shine more bright in these contents  
Than unswept stone besmeared with sluttish time.  
When wasteful war shall statues overturn,  
And broils root out the work of masonry,  
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn  
The living record of your memory.  
'Gainst death and all-oblivious enmity  
Shall you pace forth; your praise shall still find room  
Even in the eyes of all posterity  
That wear this world out to the ending doom.  
    So, till the Judgement that yourself arise,  
    You live in this, and dwell in lovers' eyes.

Source: The Norton Anthology of Poetry Third Edition (W. W. Norton and Company Inc., 1983)