

## **CARPE DIEM POETRY IN ENGLISH LITERATURE**

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**Abstract:** The purpose of the article is to explore the concept of "carpe diem" in English literature, specifically focusing on its usage in poetry. The article discusses the meaning and origin of the Latin phrase "carpe diem," also references various literary works that employ the theme of carpe diem, such as the poems "The Flea" by John Donne and 'To His Coy Mistress' by Andrew Marvell.

**Key words:** Seize, Day, Poetry, Moment, Time, Live, Appreciation, poems, fullest

**Izoh.** Maqolaning maqsadi ingliz adabiyotidagi "Carpe diem" tushunchasini o'rganish, xususan uning she'riyatda qo'llanilishiga e'tibor berish, maqolada lotincha "carpe diem" iborasining ma'nosi va kelib chiqishi muhokama qilinadi, shuningdek, Carpe diem mavzusini qo'llagan turli adabiy asarlarga, masalan, Jon Donning "Burgalar" va Endryu Marvellning "O'zining uy bekasiga" she'rlari tahlil qilinadi.

**Kalit so'zlar.** Uncertainties of the future, Poeziya, Daqiqa, Vaqt, Yashash, Qadrlash, she'rlar, Renessans davri

**Аннотация.** Цель статьи - изучить понятие «Carpe diem» в английской литературе, уделив особое внимание его употреблению в поэзии, в статье рассматривается значение и происхождение латинского словосочетания «carpe diem», а также затрагивается тема carpe diem анализируются различные

литературные произведения, такие как «Блохи» Джона Донна и «Его любовнице» Эндрю Марвелла.

**Ключевые слова:** ловить, День, Поэзия, Момент, Время, жить, Благодарность, период Ренессанса, жанр

Carpe diem, the Latin phrase that exhorts individuals to "seize the day," has long captivated the imagination of poets and readers alike. Its timeless appeal and profound meaning have found a prominent place in English literature, particularly in the realm of poetry. This article sets out to delve into the concept of "carpe diem" and its significance within the context of English literature, with a specific focus on its usage in poetry. Originating from a Latin poem by the Roman poet Horace, "carpe diem" has become a cherished theme explored by various literary works. By tracing its origins, exploring its meaning, and examining notable examples, we aim to unravel the enduring allure of "carpe diem" in English poetic expression.

The phrase "carpe diem" finds its roots in the works of Horace, a renowned Roman poet of the first century BCE. Horace's poem "Odes 1.11" is the source of this evocative expression, wherein he encourages his readers to embrace the present moment and not rely excessively on the uncertainties of the future. With its succinctness and poetic resonance, "carpe diem" swiftly gained popularity, transcending time, and language barriers to become a universal sentiment. Numerous poets have embraced the essence of "carpe diem" in their works, infusing their verses with a sense of urgency and a celebration of the present. One notable example is the poem "De rosis nascentibus" or "Of developing roses," attributed to Ausonius or Virgil, which concludes with the poignant line "Collige, virgo, rosas" or "gather, girl, the roses." This verse encourages youth to seize the pleasures of life before it is too late, echoing the sentiment of "carpe diem." [2;103]

Robert Frost often explores themes of time, mortality, and the fleeting nature of life in his poetry. He frequently emphasizes the importance of living fully in the present moment and making the most of our time on Earth. Frost's poems often encourage

readers to appreciate the beauty of the natural world, reflect on the passage of time, and contemplate the mysteries of existence. While Frost may not have a specific poem titled "Carpe Diem," the sentiment of seizing the day and living life to the fullest is a common thread throughout his body of work. Frost's poetry encourages readers to embrace the present moment, appreciate the beauty of nature, and find meaning in the fleeting moments of life. His poems serve as a reminder to make the most of our time on Earth and to cherish the experiences and relationships that enrich our lives.

Both John Donne's "The Flea" and Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress" are quintessential examples of carpe diem poetry, urging the listener to seize the day and enjoy life's pleasures while they can. However, they approach this theme with distinct tones and arguments, reflecting the complex and multifaceted nature of carpe diem itself. "The Flea": A Playful Persuasion. Donne utilizes the conceit of a flea that has bitten both the speaker and his beloved, drawing their blood and thus uniting them in its tiny body. This playful metaphor serves as a springboard to argue for physical intimacy. The speaker argues that if their blood mingling in the flea is harmless and inconsequential, then the act of physical love would be even less so. He uses wit and logic to dismantle the woman's potential objections, urging her to shed her inhibitions. Although the poem's tone is light and witty, the underlying message hints at the fleeting nature of life. The flea's eventual death symbolizes the inevitable passing of time and beauty, reinforcing the need to seize the moment. Marvell employs a more direct and philosophical approach. He begins by acknowledging that if they had "world enough, and time," the woman's coyness would be acceptable. However, he emphasizes the limited time they have on earth, making their hesitation a foolish waste. The poem utilizes contrasting imagery, juxtaposing the vastness of eternity with the swift passage of time and the decay of the human body. This emphasizes the urgency of their situation and the preciousness of the present moment. Marvell's poem emphasizes the physical pleasures of love and the richness of sensory experience. He encourages the woman to embrace the beauty and passion of life before it slips away. While "The Flea" uses

playful wit and subtle persuasion, "To His Coy Mistress" employs a more urgent and passionate tone, highlighting the consequences of delay. Donne relies on a clever analogy and logical reasoning, whereas Marvell presents a more direct and philosophical argument based on the limitations of time.

"The Flea" centers on the physical act of love, while "To His Coy Mistress" encompasses a broader appreciation for life's experiences and sensual pleasures. Both poems, despite their distinct approaches, resonate with the timeless human desire to make the most of life and embrace the present moment. They remind us of the fleeting nature of time and the importance of seizing opportunities for joy, love, and experience. The poems also reflect different ways *carpe diem* can be interpreted: as a call for immediate gratification or a more philosophical contemplation of life's brevity. [6;107]

The role of gender and power dynamics in *carpe diem* poetry. The potential consequences of a purely hedonistic approach to life. The relationship between *carpe diem* and other literary themes, such as love, mortality, and the passage of time.

By analyzing these two classic poems, we gain a deeper understanding of the complex and enduring appeal of the *carpe diem* theme in literature.

Another notable work is the academic song "De Brevitate Vitae" or "On the Shortness of Life," often referred to as "Gaudeamus igitur" or "Let us rejoice." Dating back to 1287, this composition reminds students to take joy in their lives, fully aware that mortality looms ahead. "Gaudeamus igitur" embodies the spirit of *carpe diem*, emphasizing the importance of embracing the present while acknowledging the inevitable passage of time. Related but unmistakable is the expression *token mori* (keep in mind that you are mortal) which carries a few of the same essence as *carpe diem*. For Horace, mindfulness of our claim mortality is key in making us realize the importance of the minute. "Remember that you just are mortal, so seize the day." [5;35]. Over time the state *keepsake mori* moreover came to be related with humility, as recommended in numerous *vanitas* paintings. Today numerous listeners will take the two expressions as speaking to nearly inverse approaches, with *carpe diem* urging us to savor life and

keepsake mori encouraging us to stand up to its charm. This can be not the initial sense of the keepsake mori express as utilized by Horace.

In advanced English, the expression "YOLO", meaning "you merely live once", communicates a comparable assumption. Within the 1989 American film *Dead Artists Society*, the English instructor John Keating, played by Robin Williams, broadly says: "Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives exceptional." Afterward, this line was voted as the 95th most noteworthy movie quote by the American Film Established.

In Conclusion, Carpe diem poetry, with its call to seize the day and embrace life's fleeting pleasures, has left an indelible mark on English literature. From the playful wit of John Donne's "The Flea" to the philosophical urgency of Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress," these poems have resonated across centuries, offering timeless reflections on love, mortality, and the human desire to live life to the fullest.

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