

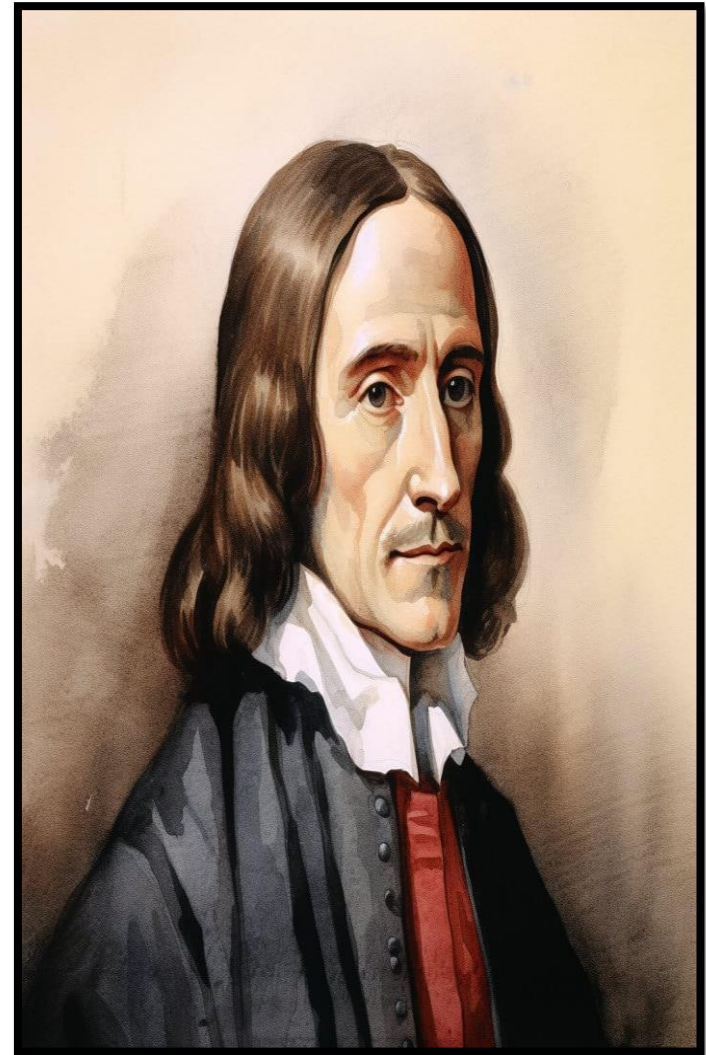
# Virtue

by George Herbert

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# GEORGE HERBERT

- Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1593 in Montgomery, United Kingdom.
- Educated at Westminster School and at Trinity College.
- Poet, Public orator and Priest.
- English religious poet and a prominent metaphysical poet.
- Known for purity and effectiveness of his choice of words.
- His poems were published in “The Temple”, the book was published after his death by his friend.



George Herbert

VERTUE.

SWEET day, so cool, so calm, so bright,  
The bridall of the earth and skie :  
The dew shall weep thy fall to-night ;  
For thou must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue angrie and brave  
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye,  
Thy root is ever in its grave,  
And thou must die.

Sweet spring, full of sweet dayes and roses,  
A box where sweets compacted lie,  
My musick shows ye have your closes,  
And all must die.

Onely a sweet and vertuous soule,  
Like season'd timber, never gives ;  
But though the whole world turn to coal,  
Then chiefly lives.



# TITLE

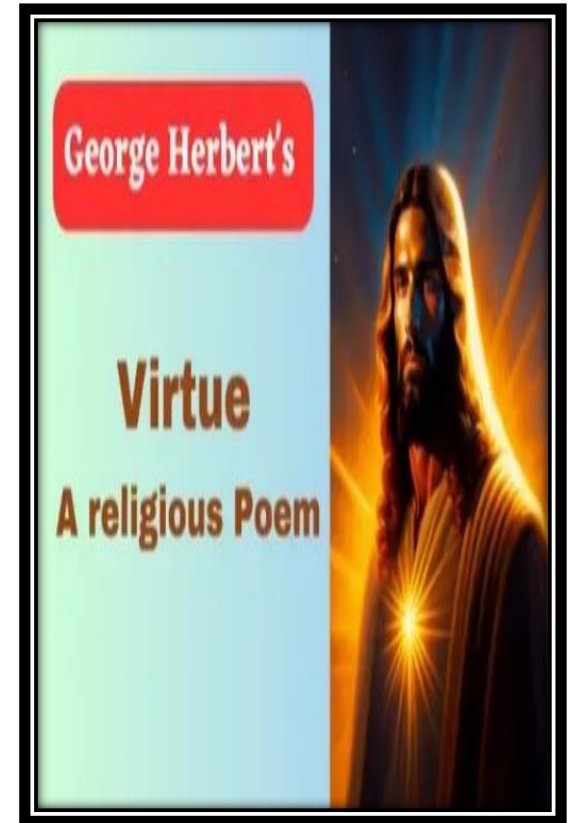
Title of the poem conveys double meaning. Virtue stands for both high moral quality and the soul of a noble man. The poem tells us about the undying and everlasting nature of virtue and perishable nature of all the beautiful things of the world.



**"Virtue" by  
George Herbert**

# INTRODUCTION

Virtue is one of the collection of verse called The Temple which George Herbert wrote during the last three years of his life.. By that time, he had taken the holy order in Anglican Church and had become rector in Bemerton, England. This poem is about life. It tells that all the living and non-living things of this world are mortal. Everything in this world will end one day. Virtue emphasizes on the loveliness of the world and also on the inevitability of death.



# SUMMARY

All the beautiful things of the world die one day. The poet says that sweet day is cool, calm and bright. It is like the wedding feast of earth and sky. But in the evening dew drops fall and they mark the tears at the end of the day. So the day is replaced by night. Then, the poet gives the example of rose which is red and beautiful. It brings tears in the eyes of the onlooker. But it also withers soon. The poet addresses the spring season which is full of sweet days and beautiful flowers. He compares spring season to a box full of sweets. But it also comes to an end. Everything comes to an end. The only thing that survives in the world is the soul of a virtuous man. It is like seasoned timber which is treated with chemicals for a longer life. Only the virtuous acts live even after the death of everything in the world.

## Virtue

BY GEORGE HERBERT

Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,  
The bridal of the earth and sky;  
The dew shall weep thy fall to-night,  
For thou must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue angry and brave  
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye;  
Thy root is ever in its grave,  
And thou must die.

Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses,  
A box where sweets compacted lie;  
My music shows ye have your closes,  
And all must die.

Only a sweet and virtuous soul,  
Like season'd timber, never gives;  
But though the whole world turn to coal,  
Then chiefly lives.

# **THEME**

## **Virtue never dies**

This poem tells about the transience of all the beautiful things of the world and the undying nature of virtue. All the finest beauties of life and nature are perishable. The only permanent thing is virtue. Only virtue and virtuous soul survive in this world

**THE END**