

## HENRY HOWARD



**HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF SURREY**, was born in Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, in 1517. He was the eldest son of [Thomas Howard](#), and Lady Elizabeth Stafford (daughter of the [Duke of Buckingham](#)). Surrey was of royal descent on both sides of his family. He was given the title "Earl of Surrey" by courtesy in 1524 on the passing away of his grandfather.

In 1532 Surrey accompanied his first cousin [Anne Boleyn](#), the King, and the [Duke of Richmond](#) to France for a meeting with [Francis I](#). Richmond and Surrey stayed in the French court for nearly a year, as members of the entourage of the French king. Surrey returned to England for the coronation of Anne Boleyn in 1533 and had a position of honor in the ceremonies. Surrey had married the [Earl of Oxford's](#) daughter, [Lady Frances de Vere](#) in 1532.

The year 1536 was a time of great change for Surrey and for the kingdom as a whole. Surrey's first son, Thomas, was born in March. In May, Anne Boleyn was tried for treason, found guilty, and executed. Surrey struck a courtier who repeated the slander at court, and was imprisoned in Windsor on the order of the privy council. Surrey's famous poem "[Prisoned in Windsor](#)", in which he recalls his boyhood days in Windsor, dates from the same year. The accusations were patently false; after all, Surrey and [his father](#) had fought to put down the rebellion. He was released later in the year, and served as a mourner in Jane Seymour's funeral.

In the early 1540s, Surrey was back in favor. In 1540, he excelled in the jousts held in honor of King Henry VIII's marriage to [Anne of Cleves](#). He was made Knight of the Garter in May 1541 and steward of the University of Cambridge in September. These honors did not, however, keep him from occasional bouts of riotous behaviour; he was imprisoned in the [Fleet prison](#) twice, in 1542 and 1543.

When Henry VIII's health was failing in 1546, Surrey made the mistake of announcing his opinion of the obviousness of his father becoming Protector to young [Prince Edward](#). Surrey continued in [Wyatt's](#) footsteps on the [English sonnet](#) form. Wyatt and Surrey, both often titled "father of the English sonnet", established the form that was later used by [Shakespeare](#) and others: three quatrains and a couplet, with a rhyme scheme of *abab cdcd efef gg*. Surrey was also the first English poet to publish in blank verse, in his translation of part of Virgil's *Aeneid*. Surrey's poetry circulated in manuscript form at court. He published his [Epitaph on Sir Thomas Wyatt](#), but most of his poetry first appeared in 1557, ten years after his death, in printer [Richard](#)

### *Spring*

The soote season, that bud and blome furth bringes,  
With grene hath clad the hill and eke the vale:  
The nightingale with fethers new she singes:  
The turtle to her make hath tolde her tale:  
Somere is come, for euery spray nowe springes,  
The hart hath hong his olde hed on the pale:  
The buck in brake his winter cote he flinges:  
The fishes flote with newe repaired scale:  
The adder all her sloughe awaye she slinges:  
The swift swallow pursueth the flyes smale:  
The busy bee her honye now she minges:  
Winter is worne that was the flowers bale:  
And thus I see among these pleasant thinges  
Eche care decayes, and yet my sorow springes.

### Summary

Henry Howard's summery sonnet, in summary, is about the coming of summer and the various ways in which a world previously in a sort of stasis or hibernation is now springing into life. ('Soote' in 'Soote Season' means 'sweet'.) However, despite this, the poet's sorrow also springs into new life at this time. We usually associate autumn and winter with sorrow, but not the summer. The Earl of Surrey makes his sorrow all the more piquant precisely because it is surrounded by reminders of joy, life, activity, and vibrancy. Isn't our own sorrow sometimes all the more keenly felt when everything else around us is joyful, and we know we should be happy too? But as Diana Wynne Jones once remarked, 'Happiness isn't a thing. You can't go out and get it like a cup of tea. It's the way you feel about things.' Sometimes there is no rhyme or reason – or season – to unhappiness.

'The soote season' takes up the literary legacy of Middle English poetry and, specifically, alliterative verse. These move between the soft sibilance that strike an appropriately summery note ('soote season', 'spray nowe springes') and harsher sounds conveying the vivid activity going on in the natural world ('tolde her tale', 'buck in brake'). In a sense, the final phrase in the poem, 'sorow springes', combines this soft sibilance and the harsher plosives in two words, just as, earlier in the poem, 'bringes' and 'singes' had merged into 'springes'.

That last word, 'springes', is especially poignant, given the seasonal focus of the poem: spring and summer should not give rise to sorrow. And it is all the more arresting given that it comes hot on the heels of many previous 'inge' rhymes: brings, sings, flings, slings, things, and – indeed – springes: 'Somers is come, for every spray nowe springes'.

'The soote season' is not only one of the first English sonnets written in English; it was written by the very man who invented the sonnet form that [Shakespeare](#) would later put his indelible stamp on. But Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey is not as celebrated as the Bard. Even a preliminary analysis of 'The soote season' shows, however, that he didn't simply prepare the way for Shakespeare: he wrote a powerfully affecting and technically accomplished sonnet in his own right.

## Poem Analysis

### Lines 1-4

Henry Howard started to introduce the countryside of England in beautiful image. He chooses a beautiful line to begin his sonnet to give some hope to the readers and the listeners. He started describing the changing that happening during spring the flora and fauna of nature change for the better. He chose the spring season because he know the sorrow of his people , so he did not want to shock them with scary image. he want to giving them a hope. In line 3 he moves on drawing an image of the bird which "nightingale" changing his feather .it is ironic to use the "nightingale" it is a symbol of ugliness. once it use by any poet it is give a gloomy atmosphere but, Henry Howard very cleverly use it at first, in a happy image by telling us that the feathers changed and changing means something good. However, he using it again in ironic way reflecting his own age, England is improving but, in wrong way and his people suffering from this changing first quatrain started contrast between the personal life of the speaker and the external world of nature. in line 3 Henry Howard also use a new structure technique which is "Anastrophe" is most often a synonym for hyperbaton, he play of the order of words to make the poem more musical.

### Lines 5-8

He start to describe another season which is summer and it has own good side in which is give us warmth and springs "Springs" here means "encourages new growth". He uses metaphors, when he refers to the hart hanging his old head, or the buck flinging in his winter coat. Henry Howard indirectly calling his people to change to the better he ask them to change them minds, the way they think and ask them to enjoy the kind of flourished that England people is having, as country when it conquered another country they will take their good and their money. In line 3 he personification a kind of animal in which he remove the skin and wearing another one, he says to his people let us remove the ugly feature we have in our faces, let us remove it and live a simple happy life . Also in line 4 he goes on with changing of fishes skin and everything seems to change weather in spring or summer some or the changing for good and some of it for bad, the changing is happening any way.

### Lines 9-12

He describing now autumn season in a beautiful way that things in autumn also change and he gives image of ugly thing which after a while it is changing to beautiful things. In line 3 there is indirect message for his people to work hard like a bee and he want his people to stand the bees as a symbol for them and working as a group their hearts together and working in harmony and at that time people in the court did not working in harmony. They have own fight and clashes,

he refer indirectly to the roses war. He asks the court people to work in harmony. Working in harmony will help to make their society stronger. In line 4 the full stop is indicating to shifting to a new idea. He beautifully ended the last quatrain that winter is come and it covered everything, everything went down to it cave or house waiting to spring coming back. There is cycle of life is presenting in Henry Howard poem. He wants us to learn from nature and the cycle of nature it is the same of the cycle of human being. Most of the images Henry Howard draws it is happy and good one, there is a changing but it is to better for everyone not just for a particular part. It is indirect technique done by Henry Howard which later on adopting in the preromantic and the romantic, referring back to nature. He reflecting to the problem of clashes between the religion in early 16th century and the church people at that time so involve in religion they almost became a blind to understand the kind of changing going around them and as a result they force their people to do something not suitable of that time that what led the protestant to raise. He says that the harmony of nature is our purpose to do in our own life.

#### **Lines 13-14**

This a beautiful couplet chosen by Henry Howard to end his own sonnet in which he sum up the meaning of the whole sonnet that he sorrow from the loss of his beloved. In the first line the using of "I" it is refer to personal note which is a technique used by Henry Howard, so in the last two lines he shifting to talking about his personal life. He indicated the pleasure in first line of the couplet everything is changing to the better. However the kind of springs he see whether in summer or spring it changing but he feelings sorrow, it is keep remind him to his beloved . there is a paradox in this couplet and one of the important things about Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard that they contributed different techniques to literature and one of the technique that Henry Howard brought is the paradox of the Petrarchan sonnet in which he reflect his personal feelings and link it with the main theme of whole sonnet.

#### **The Themes of the poem :**

1. The sorrow of losing his beloved.
2. The meditation of his own personal life with the natural world.

#### **The structure of the poem :**

it is an English sonnet divided into 3 quatrain and couplet . the rhyme scheme is A B A B .. the couplet is AA Henry Howard also use a new structure technique which is "Anastrophe" is most often a synonym for hyperbaton, he play of the order of words to make the poem more musical. He also use the paradox in his sonnet. The poem has a sad tone.