

AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION (1933)

by Dylan Thomas

And death shall have no dominion.
Dead men naked they shall be one
With the man in the wind and the west moon;
When their bones are picked clean and the clean bones gone,
They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;
Though lovers be lost love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.
Under the windings of the sea
They lying long shall not die windily;
Twisting on racks when sinews give way,
Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break;
Faith in their hands shall snap in two,
And the unicorn evils run them through;
Split all ends up they shan't crack;
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.
No more may gulls cry at their ears
Or waves break loud on the seashores;
Where blew a flower may a flower no more
Lift its head to the blows of the rain;
Though they be mad and dead as nails,
Hheads of the characters hammer through daisies;
Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,
And death shall have no dominion.

ABOUT THE POET

Dylan Thomas, born Wales 1914 – died 1953 USA

The first half of the 20th century was a period of hardship and political uncertainty in Europe. Thomas was born at the beginning of the first world war and lived through World War Two. He wrote many of his most famous poems as a teenager in the 1930s when he was exposed to the radical political ideologies and intellectualism of that decade.