

**Sonnet – 116**  
**William Shakespeare**

**Let me not to the marriage of  
true minds**

**Admit impediments. Love is not  
love**

**Which alters when it alteration  
finds,**

**Or bends with the remover to  
remove:**

**Oh no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is  
never shaken;  
It is the star to every  
wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown,  
although his height be taken.**

**Love's not Time's fool,  
though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's  
compass come;  
Love alters not  
with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the  
edge of doom.**

**If this be error and upon me  
prov'd,**

**I never writ, nor no man ever  
lov'd.**

# Appreciation

- **As a sonnet – a perfect model –  
rhyme, rhythm**
- **Simplicity – 83 / 110 words –  
monosyllabic**
- **Use of imagery – metaphors,  
personifications**

## Questions: 1 mark

**1. According to Shakespeare,  
Time cannot destroy**

- a) rosy lips and cheeks**
- b) true love**
- c) a ship on a voyage**

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Time cannot destroy**

**a) rosy lips and cheeks**

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**Ans : true love**

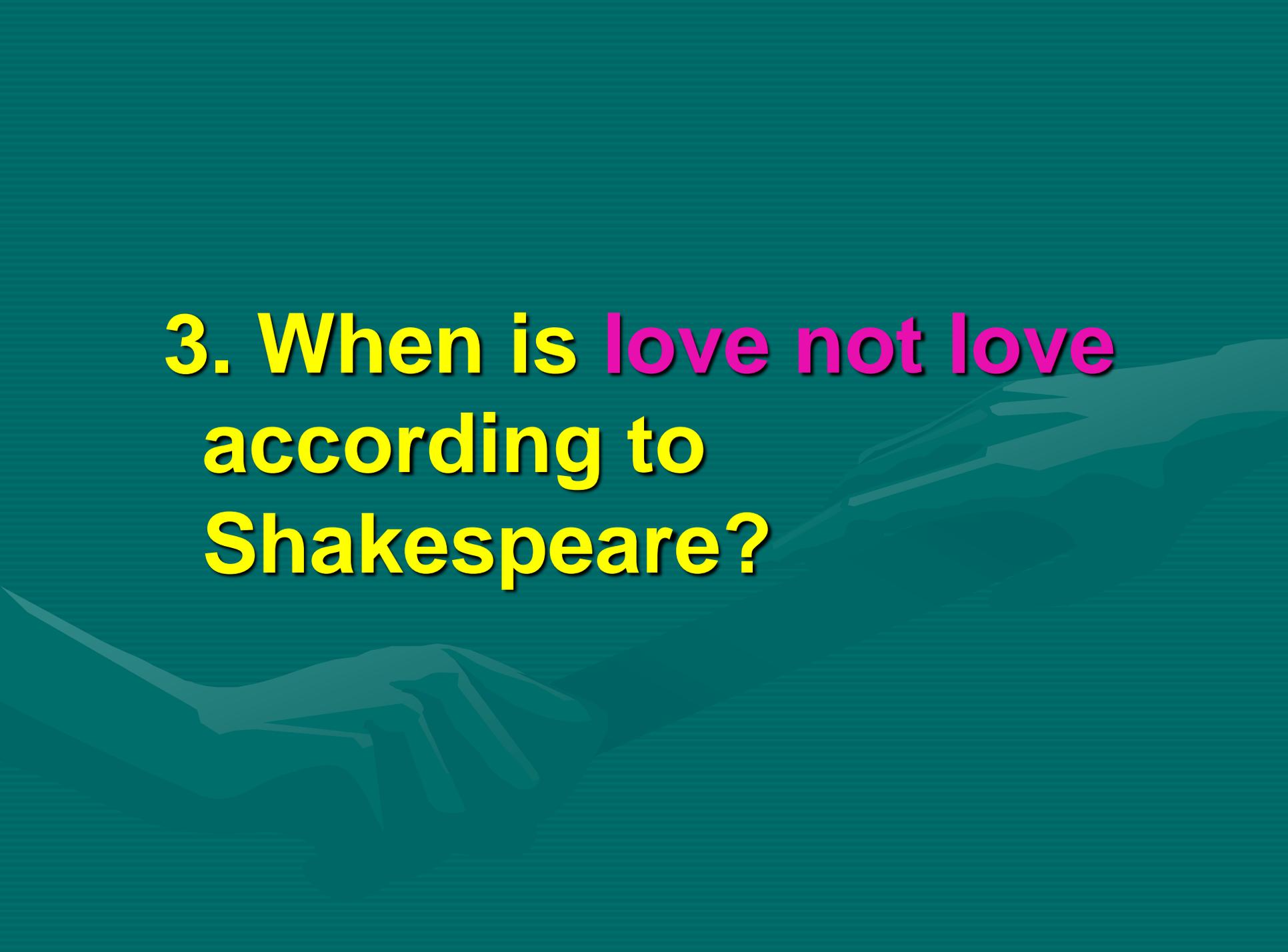
**2. What destroys rosy lips and cheeks in Shakespeare's sonnet?**



**2. What destroys 'rosy lips and cheeks' in Shakespeare's sonnet 116?**

**Ans: Time**

**3. When is love not love  
according to  
Shakespeare?**

A faint, semi-transparent image of two hands shaking is visible in the background, centered behind the text. The hands are rendered in a light teal color, matching the background. The overall image has a dark teal background with a subtle gradient.

**3. When is love not love  
according to Shakespeare?**

**Ans: When it changes and  
bends with the remover to  
remove.**

**4. Why can't Time destroy true love?**



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**Ans: Time has no sway over love. (sway = control)**

**5. What kind of marriage is the speaker talking about in sonnet 116?**



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**Ans: Marriage of true, faithful minds.**

## **6. Love is not love when it changes**

**a) In the face of obstacles**

**b) with changing circumstances**

**c) when the other changes.**

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**a) In the face of obstacles**

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**c) when the other changes.**

**(will not appear in the examination, a teaching question.)**

**Ans: a / b / c**



**7. The “ever fixed mark” that constantly guides ships is a**

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**Ans: beacon / Pole Star.**

**8. Rosy lips and cheeks  
in sonnet 116 signifies**

**a) youth**

**b) Time**

**c) love**

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**c) love**

**Ans: youth**

**9. What does “tempests” suggest  
in sonnet 116?**



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**Ans: It refers to difficulties, obstacles a lover may face.**

## **Paragraph questions (80 - 100 words)**

**1. Which characteristics of true love does Shakespeare highlight in his poem?**

- **Faithfulness**

**(marriage of true minds)**

- **Constancy, steadfastness**

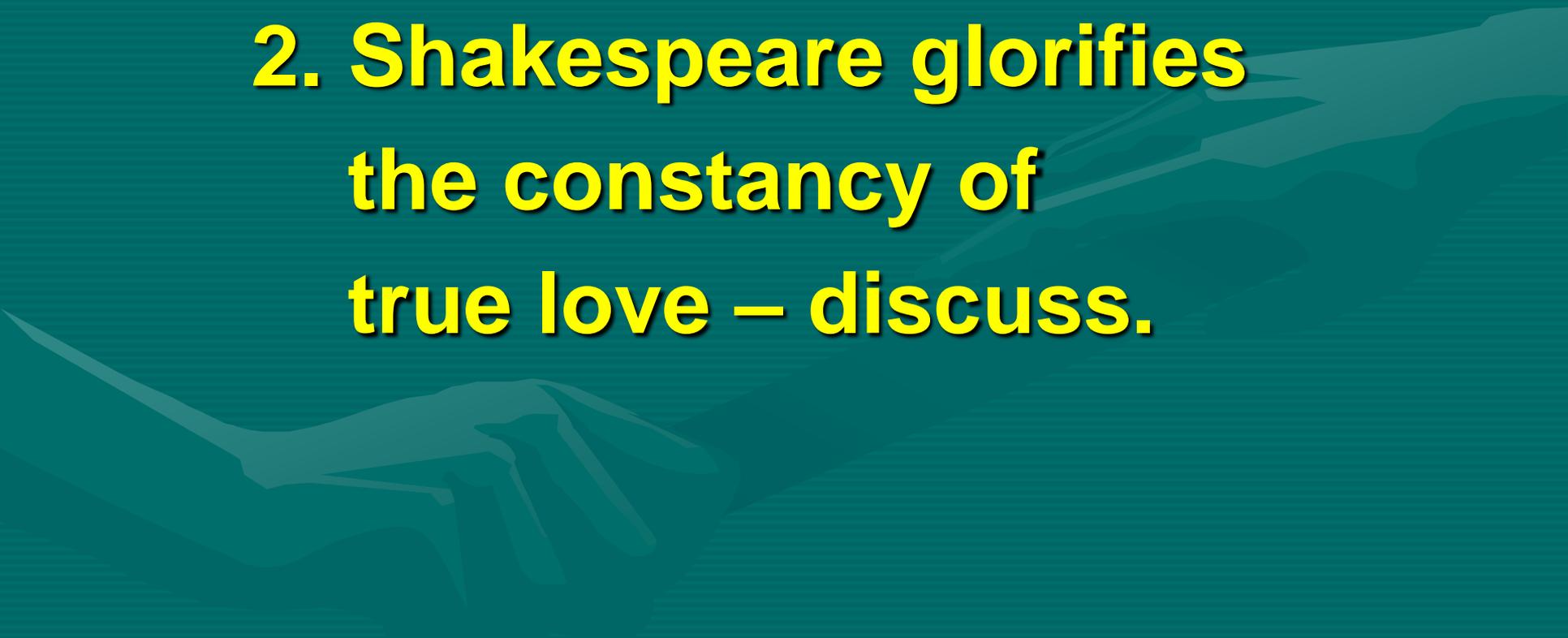
- **Firmness (like a beacon)**

- **Guidance value**

**(like the polestar)**

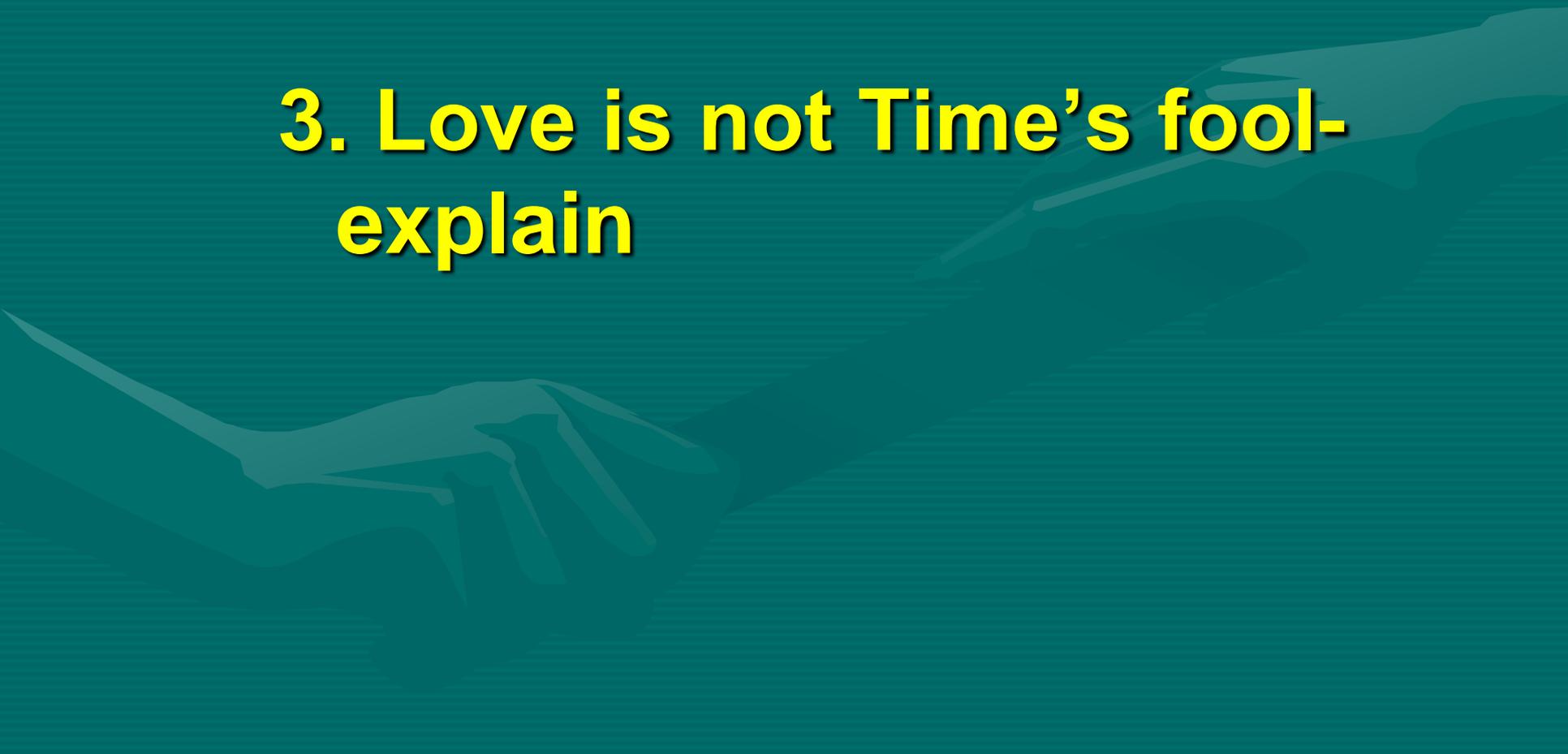
- **Eternal (not a sport of Time)**

**2. Shakespeare glorifies  
the constancy of  
true love – discuss.**



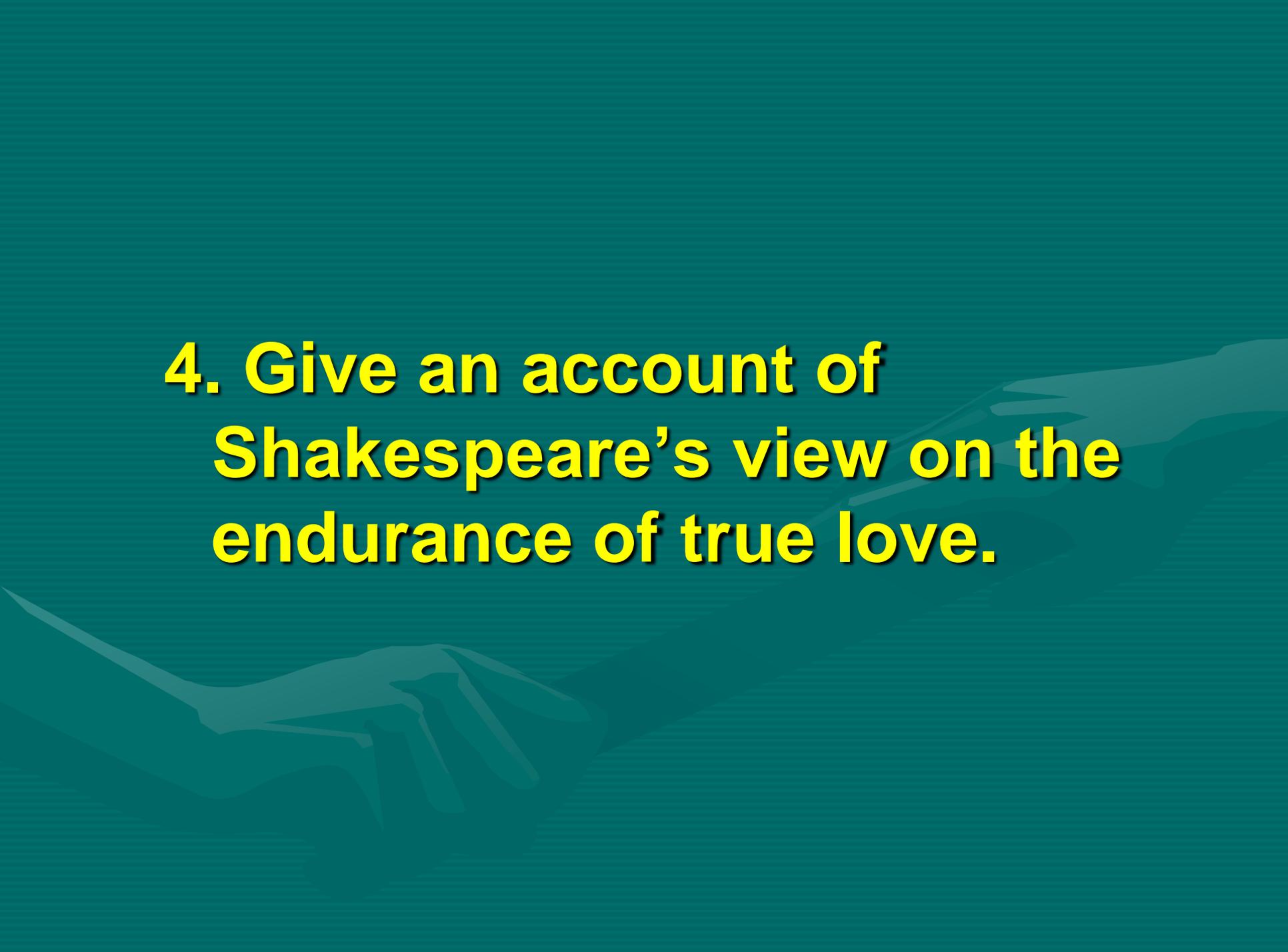
- **True love has no impediments**
- **Does not change**
- **Can withstand tempests**
- **Can guide us through storms**
- **Not a sport of Time**
- **The poet's authoritative**
- **assertions in the couplet.**

**3. Love is not Time's fool-  
explain**



- **Time - a powerful force**
- **but no power over love**
- **love is not a sport of Time**
- **true love is the child of eternity**
- **will continue till the end of Time**

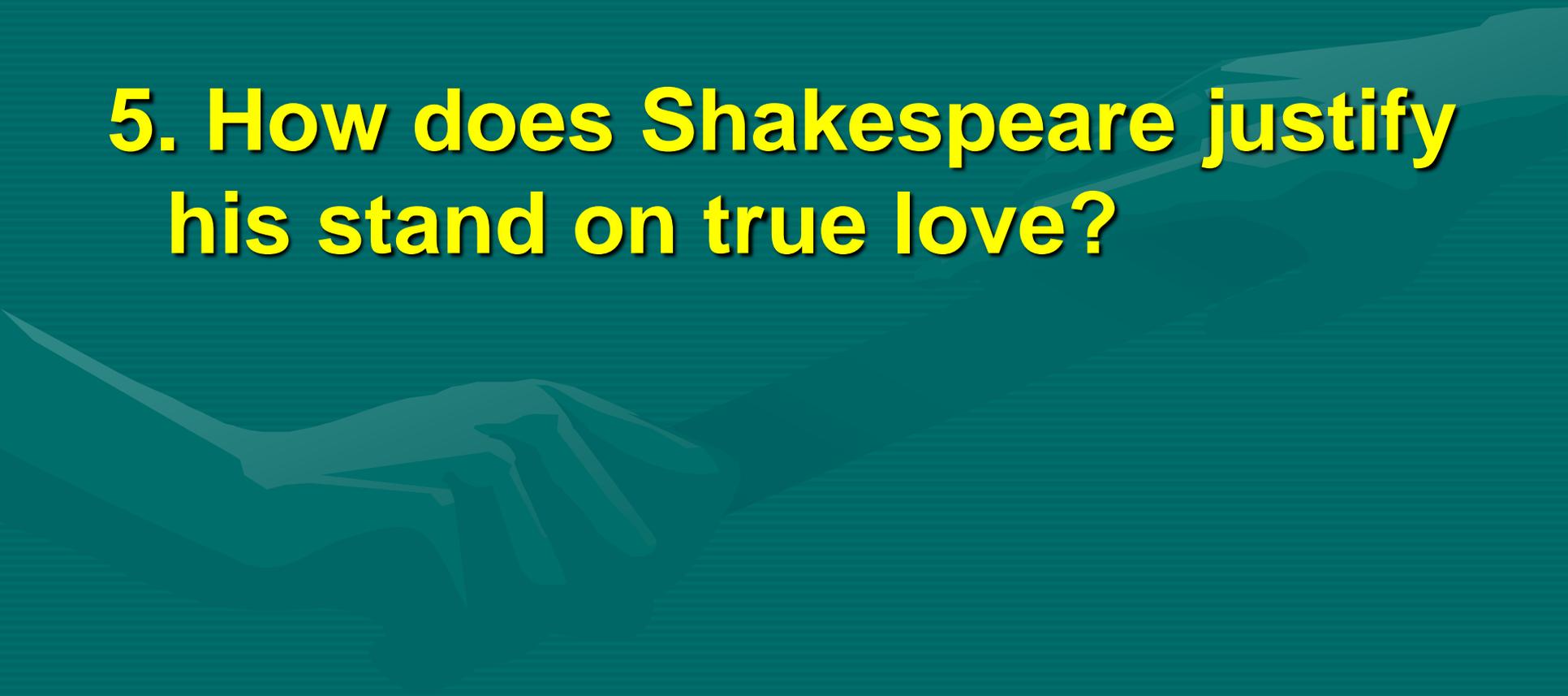
**4. Give an account of Shakespeare's view on the endurance of true love.**

A faint, semi-transparent background image of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or partnership, is visible behind the text.

## 4.

- the enduring power of love
- beyond Time's sway
- unshaken by tempests
- steadfast like a beacon
- beyond obstacles

**5. How does Shakespeare justify his stand on true love?**



- **The poet's unshakable faith in true love admits no impediments.**
- **belief that it is like a beacon.**
- **belief in its incalculable guidance value.**
- **beyond the destructive power of Time.**
- **the challenge in the couplet.**

# **QUESTIONS REQUIRING 200 WORD ANSWERS**

**1. How does Shakespeare  
highlight the constancy of  
love in Sonnet 116?**

❖ **no impediments**

**can change it.**

❖ **metaphors – fixed mark,**

**tempests, pole star.**

❖ **personifications –**

**love X time.**

❖ **the claim and challenge**

**in the couplet.**

**2. How does the poet prove  
that the union of true minds  
crosses all limitations ?**



- **impediments – doesn't admit**
- **changes – doesn't change**
- **bends with remover – doesn't bend**

**.....continued**

- **tempests – stands like a beacon**
- **inconsistency – constant like the pole star**
- **changing with Time – not Time's fool**

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