

And death shall have no dominion.

The Welsh Poet Dylan Thomas took the title for this poem from St Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 6, verse 9.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

You can find this letter in the Bible in the part called the New Testament, after the four gospel accounts of Jesus' life (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and the story of what happened to Jesus' followers as they established the Christian Church (the Acts of the Apostles).

Dylan Thomas decided, with another friend, that they would each write a poem about immortality. Dylan Thomas' poem contrasts the temporary nature of the world where all creatures die and their bodies dissolve with an afterlife of wholeness, and restoration. No matter what happens or how we die, death is not the end of us and a greater reality awaits. Love cannot be destroyed.



And death shall have no dominion.

Dead man 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,
Heads of the characters hammer through daisies;
Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,
And death shall have no dominion.**

You can hear the poem read by the actor Richard Burton, here>>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-sYXvFenDA>