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Castle Crumbling

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Description

Castle Crumbling is an extended metaphor poem illustrating the futility of holding together temporary, earthly "sandcastles" in the face of inevitable waves of change. I use Biblical references to Matthew 7 in which Jesus talks about how the foolish man built his house upon the sand, instead of a firm rock foundation. The second stanza is intentionally arranged to give the appearance of it falling apart, just like the sandcastle in the poem.

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CASTLE CRUMBLING

Emily Vest

Gathering grains of sand
with sun-stained back, spine
sliding, inclining down
the shore—in my nail beds;
I build a castle with towers and terraces,
flags and front doors thrown wide.
Seaside, it stands, grandly
surveying the leaving-boats at the quay,
screened by palm leaves while
Solia plastic spoons sculpt
sandy sides, till symmetry
makes my placid sanctuary.

But I cannot keep the seeping waves
from sweeping up the beach ,
shaking non-rock floor .
Rains fall and floods rise , spilling silt
from the deep into my castle on the hill —
my house on the sand .
The remains sift and sink through
my fingers , washing grains away ,
sloshing clay fortitudes . . .
and I'm left struggling
to save the castle c r u m b l i n g .