Procrastination is the thief of time;  
Year after year it steals, till all are fled,  
And to the mercies of a moment leaves  
The vast concerns of an eternal scene.

If not so frequent, would not this be strange?  
That 'tis so frequent, this is stranger still.

Night the First, ll. 394-99

‘My advice is, never do tomorrow what you can do today.
Procrastination is the thief of time. Collar him!’ [...] he applied that maxim to our marriage, my dear; and that was so far prematurely entered into, in consequence, that I never recovered the expense.”

Mr. Micawber recounts his father-in-law’s advice in Dickens, David Copperfield, ch.18

Edward Young (1683-1765)
Young entered All Souls College as a fellow in law on 2 December 1709, where he continued to reside until 1730. While a fellow, he established himself as a literary man. His poetic career was uninspired and seemed already over when his Poetical Works were published in 1741. Then, following the death of his wife and step-children (1736-40), a melancholy Young wrote The Complaint, or, Night Thoughts on Life, Death, and Immortality (1742-6), nine meditations on the quest for consolation through theodicy. The first five nights in particular were immensely popular. Throughout the poems, Time plays a prominent role, with the speaker continually lamenting its passage. The Night Thoughts were closely read by Wordsworth, and his procrastinating contemporary, Coleridge.

William Blake (1757-1827)
In 1797, when the Night Thoughts was reaching the end of its career as a classic, Richard Edwards commissioned William Blake to produce 537 watercolours, for which he supplied the artist with huge sheets of paper inlaid with off-centre text blocks. Young’s persistent descriptions of Time—‘Each moment has its sickle, emulous / Of Time’s enormous scythe, whose ample sweep / Strikes empires from the root’—find realization in Blake’s characteristic style. Only 43 of Blake’s designs were used for publication. Below, we see winged Time creep up and pass the reader in the space of a single spread from ‘Night the Second. On Time, Death, and Friendship’.