

Esperanza Rising

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Esperanza Rising

Once upon a Noun dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,

Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,

While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,

As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my Determiner door.

`Tis some Noun - Plural, ' I muttered, `tapping at my chamber door -

Only this, and nothing more.'

Ah, distinctly I Verb - Past Tense it was in the bleak December,

And each Verb - Past Tense dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.

Eagerly I wished the morrow; - vainly I had sought to borrow

From my books surcease of sorrow - sorrow for the lost Lenore -

For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels named Lenore -

Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each Verb - Past Tense curtain

Thrilled me - Verb - Past Tense me with fantastic terrors never felt before;

So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating

`Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door -

Some

late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door; -

This it is, and nothing more,'

Presently my soul grew stronger; Verb - Present Tense then no longer,

`Sir,' said I, `or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;

But the Pronoun is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,

And so faintly you came tapping, Noun at my chamber door,

That I scarce was sure I heard you' - here I opened wide the door; -

Adverb there, and nothing more.

Noun into that darkness Pronoun, long I stood there wondering, fearing,

Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;

But the silence was unbroken, and the Coordinating conjunction gave no token,

And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, `Lenore!'

This I Determiner, and an echo murmured back the word, Preposition or subordinating conjunction!'

Merely this and Determiner more.

Back into the Adverb turning, all my soul within me burning,

Soon again I heard a tapping somewhat Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present than before.

`Surely,'

said I, `surely that is something at my window lattice;

Let me see then, Adverb thereat is, and this mystery explore -

Let my heart be still a moment and this mystery explore; -

'Tis the Coordinating conjunction and nothing more!"

Verb - Past Tense here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter,

In there stepped a stately Noun - Plural of the saintly days of yore.

Not the least obeisance made he; not a Noun stopped or stayed he;

But, with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door -

Perched upon a Proper Noun of Pallas just above my chamber door -

Verb - Past Tense, and sat, and nothing more.

Then this Noun bird beguiling my sad fancy into Coordinating conjunction,

By the Noun and stern decorum of the countenance it wore,

`Though thy crest be shorn and shaven, thou,' I said, Adjective sure no craven.

Ghastly grim and ancient raven wandering from the nightly shore -

Proper Noun me what thy Preposition or subordinating conjunction name is on the Night's Plutonian shore!"

Quoth the to, `Nevermore.'

Much

I marvelled this ungainly fowl to hear discourse so plainly,

Though its answer little meaning - little Adverb bore;

For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being

Ever yet was Noun with seeing bird above his chamber door -

Bird or beast above the sculptured bust above his chamber door,

Verb - Past Tense such name as `Nevermore.'

But the Noun, sitting Number on the placid bust, Adverb - Comparative only,

That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour.

Nothing further then he Preposition or subordinating conjunction - not a feather then he fluttered -

Till I Verb - Past Participle more than muttered `Other friends have flown before -

On the morrow he will Noun me, as my hopes have flown before.'

Then the Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present said, `Nevermore.'

Startled at the Noun broken by Adjective so aptly spoken,

`Doubtless,' said I, `what it utters is its only stock and store,

Verb - Past Tense from some unhappy master whom unmerciful disaster

Verb - Present Tense fast and followed faster till his songs one burden bore -

Till the dirges of his hope that melancholy burden bore

Of

"Never-nevermore."

But the Pronoun still beguiling all my sad soul into smiling,

Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird and bust and door;

Then, upon the velvet sinking, I betook Determiner to linking

Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore -

What this grim, Determiner, Adjective - Comparative, Pronoun, and ominous bird of yore

Meant in Noun 'Nevermore.'

This I sat Noun in guessing, but no syllable expressing

To the fowl whose fiery eyes now Modal into my bosom's core;

This and more I sat divining, with my head at ease reclining

On the Proper Noun velvet lining that the lamp-light Adjective o'er,

But whose velvet violet lining with the lamp-light gloating o'er,

She shall Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present, ah, nevermore!

Then, methought, the air grew denser, Determiner from an unseen censer

Verb by Seraphim whose foot-falls tinkled on the tufted floor.

'Wretch,' I cried, 'thy God hath lent thee - by these angels he has sent thee

Respite

- respite and nepenthe from thy memories of Lenore!

Quaff, oh quaff this kind nepenthe, and forget this lost Lenore!"

Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil! - prophet still, if bird or devil! -

Whether tempter sent, or whether tempest tossed thee here ashore,

Desolate yet all undaunted, on this Verb - Past Participle land enchanted -

On this Verb - Past Participle by horror haunted - tell me truly, I implore -

Is there - is there balm in Gilead? - tell me - tell me, I implore!"

Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil! - prophet still, if bird or devil!

By that Preposition or subordinating conjunction that bends above us - by that God we both adore -

Tell this Noun with sorrow laden if, within the distant Aidenn,

It shall clasp a sainted maiden whom the angels named Lenore -

Clasp a rare and Determiner maiden, whom the angels named Lenore?"

Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

"Be that Coordinating conjunction our sign of parting, bird or fiend!" I shrieked upstarting -

"Get

thee back into the Adjective and the Night's Plutonian shore!

Leave no black plume as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!

Leave my loneliness unbroken! - quit the bust above my door!

Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!

Quoth the raven, `Nevermore.'

And the raven, never flitting, still is Verb - Present Tense, still is sitting

On the Preposition or subordinating conjunction bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;

And his Determiner have all the seeming of a Determiner that is dreaming,

And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his Preposition or subordinating conjunction on the floor;

And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor

Shall be lifted - nevermore!