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LE CORBEAU / THE RAVEN

POÈME PAR EDGAR POE

TRADUCTION FRANÇAISE DE STÉPHANE MALLARMÉ

AVEC ILLUSTRATIONS PAR ÉDOUARD MANET

PARIS

RICHARD LESCLIDE, ÉDITEUR, 61, RUE DE LAFAYETTE

1875

Once upon a midnight 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 chamber door.
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door--
Only this and nothing more."

_Une fois, par un minuit lugubre, tandis que je m'appesantissais,
faible et fatigué, sur maint curieux et bizarre volume de savoir
oublié--tandis que je dodelinais la tête, somnolant presque: soudain
se fit un heurt, comme de quelqu'un frappant doucement, frappant à
la porte de ma chambre--cela seul et rien de plus._

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December,
And each separate 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 name Lenore--
Nameless here for evermore.

_Ah! distinctement je me souviens que c'était en le glacial
Décembre: et chaque tison, mourant isolé, ouvrait son spectre
sur le sol. Ardemment je souhaitais le jour--vainement j'avais
cherché d'emprunter à mes livres un sursis au chagrin--au chagrin
de la Lénore perdue--de la rare et rayonnante jeune fille que les
anges nomment Lénore:--de nom pour elle ici, non, jamais plus!_

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
Thrilled me--filled 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."

_Et de la soie l'incertain et triste bruissement en chaque rideau
purpural me traversait--m'emplissait de fantastiques terreurs pas
senties encore: si bien que, pour calmer le battement de mon coeur,
je demeurais maintenant à répéter «C'est quelque visiteur qui sollicite
l'entrée, à la porte de ma chambre--quelque visiteur qui sollicite
l'entrée, à la porte de ma chambre; c'est cela et rien de plus.»_

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping--tapping at my chamber door,
That I scarce was sure I heard you"--here I opened wide the door:--
Darkness there and nothing more.

_Mon âme devint subitement plus forte et, n'hésitant davantage
«Monsieur, dis-je, ou Madame, j'implore véritablement votre pardon;
mais le fait est que je somnolais et vous vîntes si doucement frapper,
et si faiblement vous vîntes heurter, heurter à la porte de ma chambre,
que j'étais à peine sûr de vous avoir entendu.»--Ici j'ouvris, grande,
la porte: les ténèbres et rien de plus.»_

Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no token,
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, "Lenore!"
This I whispered, and an echo murmured back the word, "Lenore!"--

n'eût encore l'heur de voir un oiseau au-dessus de la porte de sa chambre--un oiseau ou toute autre bête sur le buste sculpté, au-dessus de la porte de sa chambre, avec un nom tel que: «Jamais plus.»_

But the Raven, sitting lonely on that placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour.
Nothing further then he uttered; not a feather then he fluttered--
Till I scarcely more than muttered, "Other friends have flown before--
On the morrow he will leave me, as my Hopes have flown before."
Then the bird said, "Nevermore."

Mais le Corbeau, perché solitairement sur ce buste placide, parla ce seul mot comme si, son âme, en ce seul mot, il la répandait. Je ne proférai donc rien de plus: il n'agita donc pas de plume--jusqu'à ce que je fis à peine davantage que marmotter «D'autres amis déjà ont pris leur vol--demain il me laissera comme mes Espérances déjà ont pris leur vol.» Alors l'oiseau dit: «Jamais plus.»

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so aptly spoken,
"Doubtless," said I, "what it utters is its only stock and store,
Caught from some unhappy master, whom unmerciful Disaster
Followed fast and followed faster till his songs one burden bore--
Till the dirges of his Hope the melancholy burden bore
Of 'Never--nevermore.'"

Tressaillant au calme rompu par une réplique si bien parlée: «Sans doute dis-je, ce qu'il profère est tout son fonds et son bagage, pris à quelque malheureux maître que l'impitoyable Désastre suivit de près et de très-près suivit jusqu'à ce que ses chansons comportassent un unique refrain; jusqu'à ce que les chants funèbres de son Espérance comportassent le mélancolique refrain de «Jamais--jamais plus.»

But the Raven 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 myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore--
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking "Nevermore."

Le Corbeau induisant toute ma triste âme encore au sourire, je roulai soudain un siège à coussins en face de l'oiseau et du buste et de la porte; et m'enfonçant dans le velours, je me pris à enchaîner songerie à songerie, pensant à ce que cet augural oiseau de jadis--à ce que ce sombre, disgracieux, sinistre, maigre et augural oiseau de jadis signifiait en croassant: «Jamais plus.»

This I sat engaged in guessing, but no syllable expressing
To the fowl whose fiery eyes now burned into my bosom's core;
This and more I sat divining, with my head at ease reclining
On the cushion's velvet lining that the lamp-light gloated o'er,
But whose velvet violet lining with the lamp-light gloating o'er,
She shall press, ah, nevermore!

_Cela, je m'assis occupé à le conjecturer, mais n'adressant pas une syllabe à l'oiseau dont les yeux de feu brûlaient, maintenant, au fond de mon sein; cela et plus encore, je m'assis pour le deviner, ma tête reposant à l'aise sur la housse de velours des coussins que dévorait la lumière de la lampe, housse violette de velours dévoré par la lumière de la lampe qu'_Elle_ ne pressera plus, ah! jamais plus._

Then, methought, the air grew denser, perfumed from an unseen censer,
Swung by Seraphim whose foot-falls tinkled on the tufted floor.
"Wretch," I cried, "thy God hath lent thee--by these angels he hath 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."

_L'air, me sembla-t-il, devint alors plus dense, parfumé selon un
encensoir invisible balancé par les Séraphins dont le pied, dans sa
chute, tintait sur l'étoffe du parquet. «Misérable, m'écriai-je, ton
Dieu t'a prêté--il t'a envoyé, par ces anges, le répit--le répit et
le népenthès dans ta mémoire de Lénore! Bois! oh! bois ce bon népenthès
et oublie cette Lénore perdue!» Le Corbeau dit: «Jamais plus!»_

"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 desert land enchanted--
On this home 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."

_«Prophète, dis-je, être de malheur! prophète, oui, oiseau ou
démon! Que si le Tentateur t'envoya ou la tempête t'échoua vers ces
bords, désolé et encore tout indompté, vers cette déserte terre
enchantée--vers ce logis par l'horreur hanté: dis-moi véritablement,
je t'implore! y a-t-il du baume en Judée?--dis-moi, je t'implore.»
Le Corbeau dit: «Jamais plus!»_

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!--prophet still, if bird or devil!
By that Heaven that bends above us--by that God we both adore--
Tell this soul with sorrow laden if, within the distant Aidenn,
It shall clasp a saintly maiden whom the angels name Lenore--
Clasp a rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore."
Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore."

_«Prophète, dis-je, être de malheur! prophète, oui, oiseau ou
démon! Par les Cieux sur nous épars--et le Dieu que nous adorons tous
deux--dis à cette âme de chagrin chargée si, dans le distant Eden,
elle doit embrasser une jeune fille sanctifiée que les anges nomment
Lénore--embrasser une rare et rayonnante jeune fille que les anges
nomment Lénore.» Le Corbeau dit: «Jamais plus!»_

"Be that word our sign of parting, bird or fiend!" I shrieked, upstarting--
"Get thee back into the tempest 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."

_«Que ce mot soit le signal de notre séparation, oiseau ou malin
esprit,» hurlai-je, en me dressant. «Reculer en la tempête et le rivage
plutonien de Nuit! Ne laisse pas une plume noire ici comme un gage du
mensonge qu'a proféré ton âme. Laisse inviolé mon abandon! quitte le
buste au-dessus de ma porte! ôte ton bec de mon coeur et jette ta
forme loin de ma porte!» Le Corbeau dit: «Jamais plus!»_

And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting--still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a Demon's that is dreaming,
And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;

And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted--nevermore!

_Et le Corbeau, sans voleter, siége encore--siége encore sur le buste
pallide de Pallas, juste au-dessus de la porte de ma chambre, et ses
yeux ont toute la semblance des yeux d'un démon qui rêve, et la
lumière de la lampe, ruisselant sur lui, projette son ombre à terre: et
mon âme, de cette ombre qui gît flottante à terre, ne s'élèvera--jamais
plus!_

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