⑦

Open here I flung the shutter,
when, with many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a stately Raven
of the saintly days of yore;
Not the least obeisance made he;
not a minute stopped or stayed he;
But, with mien of lord or lady,
perched above my chamber door—
Perched upon a bust of Pallas
just above my chamber door—
Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

⑧

Then this ebony bird beguiling
my sad fancy into smiling,
By the grave and stearn decorum
of the countenance it wore,
"Though thy crest of shorn and shaven,
thou," I said, "art sure no craven,
Ghastly grim and ancient Raven
wandering from the Nightly shore—
Tell me what thy lordly name is
on the Night's Plutonian shore!"
Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."

⑨

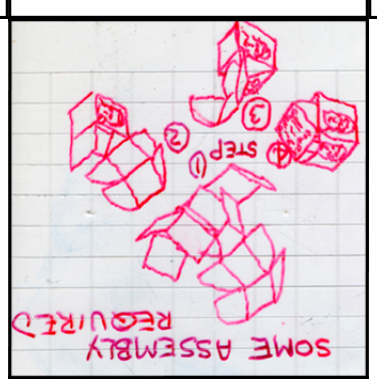
Much I marvelled this ungainly fowl
to hear discourse so plainly
Though its answer little meaning —
little relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing
that no living human being
Ever yet was blessed with seeing
bird above his chamber door —
Bird or beast upon the sculpted
bust above his chamber door,
With such name as "Nevermore."

⑩

But the Raven, sitting lonely
on the placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul
in that one word he did outpour.
Nothing farther 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."

⑪

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
that melancholy burden bore
Of 'Never — nevermore'."

⑫

But the Raven still beguiling
all my fancy into smiling,
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat
in front of bird, and bust and door;
Then, upon the velvet sinking,
I betook my-self 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."