

**1827**

**THE HAPPIEST DAY, THE HAPPIEST HOUR**

**Edgar Allan Poe**

*Poe, Edgar Allan (1809-49) - American poet, short-story writer, and critic who is best known for his tales of ratiocination, his fantastical horror stories, and his genre-founding detective stories. Poe, whose cloudy personal life is a virtual legend, considered himself primarily a poet. Happiest Day, the Happiest Hour (1827) - One of Poe's poems. Opening lines: The happiest day- the happiest hour / My seared and blighted heart hath known, ...*

## **The Happiest Day, the Happiest Hour**

The happiest day- the happiest hour My sear'd and blighted heart hath known,  
The highest hope of pride and power, I feel hath flown.

Of power! said I? yes! such I ween; But they have vanish'd long, alas!

The visions of my youth have been But let them pass.

And, pride, what have I now with thee? Another brow may even inherit The  
venom thou hast pour'd on me Be still, my spirit!

The happiest day- the happiest hour Mine eyes shall see- have ever seen, The  
brightest glance of pride and power, I feel- have been: But were that hope of  
pride and power Now offer'd with the pain Even then I felt- that brightest hour I  
would not live again: For on its wing was dark alloy, And, as it flutter'd- fell An  
essence- powerful to destroy A soul that knew it well.

**THE END**