

1827

## **A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM**

**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. Dream Within a Dream (1827) - One of Poe's poems. Opening lines: Take this kiss upon the brow! / And, in parting from you now, ...*

## **A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM**

### **Take this kiss upon the brow!**

And, in parting from you now, Thus much let me avow  
You are not wrong, who deem  
That my days have been a dream; Yet if hope has flown away  
In a night, or in a day, In  
a vision, or in none, Is it therefore the less gone?  
All that we see or seem Is but a dream  
within a dream.

I stand amid the roar Of a surf-tormented shore,  
And I hold within my hand Grains of  
the golden sand  
How few! yet how they creep Through my fingers to the deep,  
While I weep- while I weep!

O God! can I not grasp Them with a tighter clasp?  
O God! can I not save One from the  
pitiless wave? Is all that we see or seem  
But a dream within a dream?

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- **THE END-**