

1831

## **THE VALLEY OF UNREST**

**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. Valley of Unrest (1831) - One of Poe's poems describing a dream-world. Opening lines: Once it smiled a silent dell / Where the people did not dwell; ...*

## **The Valley of Unrest**

Once it smiled a silent dell Where the people did not dwell; They had gone unto the wars,  
Trusting to the mild-eyed stars, Nightly, from their azure towers, To keep watch  
above the flowers, In the midst of which all day The red sunlight lazily lay.

Now each visitor shall confess The sad valley's restlessness.

Nothing there is motionless Nothing save the airs that brood Over the magic solitude.

Ah, by no wind are stirred those trees That palpitate like the chill seas Around the  
misty Hebrides!

Ah, by no wind those clouds are driven That rustle through the unquiet Heaven  
Uneasily, from morn till even, Over the violets there that lie In myriad types of the  
human eye Over the lilies there that wave And weep above a nameless grave!

They wave:- from out their fragrant tops Eternal dews come down in drops.

They weep:- from off their delicate stems Perennial tears descend in gems.

**THE END**