

# *In Pace Requiescat*

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I will tell a positively

Hell-fired story,

Into which I find it almost

Impossible

To throw in any cheering light.

Observe how healthily –

How calmly

I can tell you my story.

It is impossible to say

How first the idea

Entered my brain;

But once conceived,

It haunted me

Day and night.

I must not only punish,

But punish with impunity.

Object there was none.

Passion there was none.

The blackness of

Eternal night

Encompassed me.

I chased him round Good Hope

And round the Horn,

And round the Norway Maelstrom,

And round perdition's flames

Before I'd give him up.

I vowed revenge.

I'll chase that man

On both sides of land,

And all over sides of earth,

Till he spouts black blood.

My vengeance will fetch

A great premium.

Now this is the point.

You fancy me mad.

I changed myself into

Something awful.

Dark old man!

Madmen know nothing.

But you should have seen *me*.

*Nemo me impune lacessit.*

This is the only remembrance of me

That will remain.

We chose quotes that we thought would show some of the main things the Dark Romantics wanted to show of the dark side of life. We tried creating a story-like poem based on revenge, madness, and obsession. The first stanza is like an introduction leading into the rest of the poem. The voice of the poem is similar to that of a character of Poe's like the one narrating *The Tell Tale Heart* or *The Cask of Amontillado*. The second and third stanzas emphasize the idea of obsession and need for violence. We used a lot of Poe's quotes because he is the master of horror and mystery and we read more of his works than the other two authors'. In the first stanza, notice how the first, third, and fifth line have a similar amount of syllables. The stanzas are set up partially rhythmically, but mainly to emphasize certain parts of the quotes. For one of Melville's quotes, we changed "white whale" to "man" because we thought we didn't want to take Melville's unique idea of Moby-Dick. Our poem does slightly resemble Poe's *Cask of Amontillado* and *Tell Tale Heart* because the themes are so similar. Besides, more people can relate to wanting to hurt another human more than wanting to hurt an innocent creature. This found poem about the Dark Romantics is meant to resemble some of their writing and what they wanted to share with society.