A Dream Within a Dream

Edgar Allan Poe / Bilingual study edition

Spanish is an AI-assisted teaching draft, pending independent review. The English original is the source; poetic choices are not exact word-for-word equivalents.

Stanza 1 / Estrofa 1

LINE	ENGLISH ORIGINAL	ESPAÑOL - BORRADOR
1	Take this kiss upon the brow!	¡Recibe este beso en la frente!
2	And, in parting from you now,	Y, al despedirme de ti ahora,
3	Thus much let me avow —	déjame confesar tan solo esto:
4	You are not wrong, who deem	no te equivocas al pensar
5	That my days have been a dream;	que mis días han sido un sueño;
6	Yet if Hope has flown away	pero si la Esperanza se ha ido
7	In a night, or in a day,	en una noche, o en un día,
8	In a vision, or in none,	en una visión, o sin ninguna,
9	Is it therefore the less gone?	¿acaso por eso se ha ido menos?
10	All that we see or seem	Todo lo que vemos o parecemos
11	Is but a dream within a dream.	no es más que un sueño dentro de un sueño.

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Stanza 2 / Estrofa 2

LINE	ENGLISH ORIGINAL	ESPAÑOL - BORRADOR
12	I stand amid the roar	Estoy de pie entre el estruendo
13	Of a surf-tormented shore,	de una orilla azotada por las olas,
14	And I hold within my hand	y sostengo en mi mano
15	Grains of the golden sand —	granos de arena dorada.
16	How few! yet how they creep	¡Qué pocos! Y, sin embargo, cómo se deslizan
17	Through my fingers to the deep,	entre mis dedos hacia el abismo,
18	While I weep — while I weep!	¡mientras lloro, mientras lloro!
19	O God! can I not grasp	¡Oh Dios! ¿No puedo aferrarlos
20	Them with a tighter clasp?	con más fuerza?
21	O God! can I not save	¡Oh Dios! ¿No puedo salvar
22	One from the pitiless wave?	uno solo de la ola implacable?
23	Is all that we see or seem	¿Es todo lo que vemos o parecemos
24	But a dream within a dream?	tan solo un sueño dentro de un sueño?

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Edgar Allan Poe / Practice in both directions

English → Spanish: cover the Spanish column, read the English, and try expressing its meaning.
Español → inglés: tapa la columna en inglés, lee el español e intenta expresar su sentido.

Six words to carry with you / Seis expresiones

brow	frente
avow	confesar
shore	orilla
grains of sand	granos de arena
grasp	aferrar
pitiless	implacable

Notice the poem’s choices / Observa las decisiones

1. Compare lines 10–11 and 23–24. What changes? / ¿Qué cambia?
2. In line 11, does “but” mean “however” or “only”? / ¿Significa “pero” o “solo”?
3. “Brow” is a literary word for “forehead.” Find “frente” in the poem.
4. Read either stanza aloud, then record your own reading on the lesson page.

Study notes: the closing statement becomes a question. In line 11, “but” means “only”. In line 6, “se ha ido” conveys departure but softens the flight image in “has flown away”.

English text: Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore, 1849 version.
https://www.eapoe.org/works/poems/drmwdrmb.htm
Spanish: project teaching draft. No independent language review yet.