Edgar Allan Poe

A DREAM

In visions of the dark night I have dreamed of joy departed; But a waking dream of life and light Hath left me broken-hearted.

Ah! what is not a dream by day To him whose eyes are cast On things around him, with a ray Turned back upon the past?

That holy dream, that holy dream, While all the world were chiding, Hath cheered me as a lovely beam, A lonely spirit guiding.

What though that light, thro' storm and night, So trembled from afar – What could there be more purely bright In Truth's day-star?



Response Questions

A DREAM

• Why do you think Poe describes dreams as "looking back on the past"?

• Why do you think his "dream of life and light" left him brokenhearted upon waking up?