

"A PALE GOLD RAVEN" AND OTHER POEMS

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Poe's "'The Raven' and Other Poems" was a collection of some of the best verse of his career. This collection of my own verse is definitely not of the same quality, but the logological constraints followed should be of interest to readers.

"When, Boaster?" is an Anachuttle, a verse form invented by Walter Shedlofsky, which contains a subject hidden vertically in the verse, an initial acrostic which anagrams the subject, and shuttle rhymes (spoonergrams) at the end of each line. This verse contains, in fact, four different mutations of the subject, hidden in various ways. The subject takes ridicule without return in the first stanza, and works with little reward in the second stanza.

"A Pale Gold Raven" is a retelling of the original "Raven", but each line is an anagram of EDGAR ALLAN POE plus one free letter. Once the conversation starts (in the fourth stanza), the raven and the lad take alternate stanzas, but the raven gets the last two.

The next poem is a line-by-line anagram, my own small contribution to the "significant" collection of anagrams of WHAT IS THE MEANING OR PURPOSE OF LIFE initiated by John Henrick in May 1989. In this poem, the writer is in control at the start but the anagram takes control by the end, perhaps a metaphor of life.

These verses are followed by two automynorcagrams inspired by Richard Rankin's November 1989 article, one a sonnet and one a double dactyl, in which the nth word of the verse begins with the nth character of the verse. The sonnet demonstrates that it is not difficult to include articles in automynorcagrams; it contains five, not counting the initial "A" which can be prefixed to any automynorcagram where syntax permits.

The final poem is simply a versification of Proverbs 31:10-31, with lines beginning with successive letters of the alphabet as they did in the original Hebrew.

WHEN, BOASTER?

When boaster thought that chalk dull fiction, airy,
Honor rarely housed that prose, wry biter,
Essays egged on, tact would come be slighter --
Nothing witty answered our sly writer.

Brew an ethos new, he often speaks there;
Other novelty should soften piques there.

Ahab each day works, with stubborn pages.
 Sense the wax each night, pith stub, burn wages.
 Tested hidden roots; (false bight--the Brown Sea)
 Entered often, best words bright, the bouncy;
 Reframed such, each for chock-full dictionary.

A PALE GOLD RAVEN

Alone, pal, regard
 a pale ol' reading:
 Galahad, no leper;
 or a deil-angel P.A.;
 and a plague lore.
 Page all, and more.

Hear a long plead,
 nae, pad really, go
 "Rap!" Dole a glance
 near place. A gold
 gal pads? A Lenore?
 Na--agape ell door.

Reread plan, goal;
 ode area palling--
 rave on legal pad.
 Again, do peer, all
 glad, alpen (afore)--
 Glad para Lenore?

Lad, glare at open
 door, glean a pale,
 old anger. Appeal
 a la penal reb: "God!
 Deal age, pain, Lor'?"
 E.g., all pain adore?"

Gall! Appeared no
 eagle, or paladin.
 A pale raven--gold,
 opal e'en--glared, a
 sage: "And all pore?
 Leap glad na more!"

Raven loged (a lap:
 god Pallas) ere an
 eager lad plans, "O
 raven pale, do lag!
 Na pillage adore!
 Nae gala deplore!"

Pallas agreed on
 general payload.
 Load, leper again,
 repeat, "Lad, a long
 page done--all war!
 A nag all deplore!"

Angered, a pallor
 on pate, all raged,
 ponder a gall sea:
 "O, garland, please,
 and lag, heal pore.
 Pan a galled sore!"

Angel, paloma? Red
 and pale goal, per
 raven: "Do age, pall,
 load, plague near?
 Ape gall and gore?
 Page all, and more!"

"Hope--real, glad? An
 age, a plan led for
 love? A grand plea
 plan, or else--gad!--a
 page, and all sore!
 Adapt gal Lenore!"

Raven pled, "A goal?
 Enlarged paloma?
 Plagal mode? Near
 person, a glad lea?
 Na! Pillage adore!
 Nae! Gala deplore!"

Hope, and all rage
 gone? Plead alarm,
 do gap! All are one--
 repêl diagonal!
 All paged no more!
 Leap glad na more!"

WHAT IS THE MEANING OR PURPOSE OF LIFE?

- I. I whip up these fool arrangements of
 hippie tiles, from huge want of reason.
- II. Graph 'em: one L, two T's (no heap). I suffer
 of grim fate, while I push open treason.
- III. Fog afar: "three tens plus one" whomp
 out feelings (for whom?), their appeasin'.
- FOUR. Enigma now hath people; strife is
 What the meaning or purpose of life is.

AUTOMYNORCAGRAMS

A bard, a rhymer, daily art renews,
 Has yet much energy, replenished dully.
 An idea looms; you aren't right to ruse
 Each night, each week, so hasten, author schooly.

Your etymology, though most use coolly,
 Has eddies never ere received glad yet.
 Repeat, elucidate; please list each newly
 Ideaed substantive. (Have, else, direst debt.)

Unless logologists, your audience net
 Is due extremely average lines of ode.
 Make sure you're often using alphabet
 Real easy (not the rough, impassive goad).

Having the tact of rakes, use solid end.
 Extract a climax; hardship ne'er intend.

Paddling, addling
 Dactylic dimeter,
 Lacking in nothing good,
 Always drives daft.

Lunatic idyllic
 Now gets delectable:
 Automynorcagrams
 Come too. (You laughed?)

THE WIFE OF NOBLE CHARACTER

A wife of noble character who can find?
 And where a woman virtuous and wise?
 Because her value's more than diamonds mined,
 Beryls, or rubies, in her husband's eyes.
 Completely confident in her is he,
 Convinced that he will never suffer need;
 Day after day she does him good, you see,
 Devoid of any evil work or deed.
 Entrusted thus, she buys cotton and wool,
 Eagerly making clothing for her brood,
 Feeding her children wisely, as a rule,
 From far away, as freighters, bringing food.
 Get up, observe: she wakes while all else sleep;
 Guests, family, and servants, all are fed.
 Has she spare time? she buys a field to reap,
 Harvest, and sow; she plants a garden bed.
 In everything, her vigor never fails;
 If she has work to do, her arms are strong.
 Judiciously she chooses better sales,
 Just buy the lamp that she knows will burn long.
 Know that she is industrious, to boot,
 Keeps hand to spindle, never needing rest;
 Looks also to the poor and destitute,
 Lending a hand to those who are less blessed.
 May snows come? she's unworried for her fold,
 Makes sure that all are warmly dressed in reds.
 No bed of hers needs blankets or is cold,
 Nor does she lack fine linen clothes or spreads.
 On top of this, her husband is well-known,
 One man who earns respect throughout the land.

Preparing clothes for sale, she earns her own;
 Proud merchants purchase all she has in hand.
 Queenly, she wears both dignity and strength,
 Quite carefree where the future is concerned.
 Rightly and wisely she can speak at length;
 Rich proverbs, her discourse, by all are learned.
 Seeking to look to all the house's ways,
 She does not eat the bread of idleness.
 Those children of her household offer praise,
 The husband knows she is one he will bless:
 "Up through the ages, women have done true,
 Unblemished, noble actions, which stand tall.
 Verily, verily I say to you,
 Virtuous woman, you surpass them all."
 We know that charmers lie, disguise what's what.
 Women of beauty also reach discord;
 Xanthic will be the skin that now glows. But
 X is the woman's sign who fears the Lord.
 You see, the one who follows after Jesus,
 Yes, that one works to build a heavenly store;
 Zion will praise her as much as she pleases,
 Zealously singing of her at Heaven's door.

A MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS DICTIONARY

Word Ways does not usually review dictionaries devoted to words and jargon in a specialized field. However, Richard Weiner's *Dictionary of Media and Communications* (Webster's New World, 1990; \$29.95), a 533-page compendium of well over ten thousand boldface entries (thirty thousand definitions in all) is worth at least a brief review. The range of topics is exceptionally wide - from book-publishing and typography to rhetoric, from stage and TV production to computer technology, from newspapers and magazine publishing to advertising. Even *palindrome* and *anagram* are defined!

The book is full of logological and onomastic arcana. Did you know that Alan Smithee is a fictitious director's name in TV credits, as George Spelvin or Harry Selby is a fictitious character in a playbill? Did you know that 73 means "best regards" and 95 means "urgent message" in wire-service jargon? Did you know that an exclamation point is a banger, a shout, a shriek, or a screamer? or that the comma before an *and* in a series of items is a *Harvard comma*?

The occasional editorial aside lends piquancy to the dull definition. Under *shooting ratio* (film shot to film actually used), he comments "Ask Elaine May about *Ishtar*." *South* is slang for failure, but "a successful campaign is not hailed as going north."