

## **THE ANALYSIS OF THE MOOD IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO"**

The descriptive details always play an important role in creating the mood of any of the written pieces, including short stories like "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe. The mood influences the characters and their deeds, which is why we all have to pay careful attention to it.

It appears to be important how the mood changes throughout the story. In the very beginning, we see events unfolding at the carnival. The joyful and colorful atmosphere at the carnival changes to dull and scary closer the end, when the main characters enter the vaults. That spot is exactly where the main character begins to show the most prominent changes in his mood and set the tone for the overall story.

The duplicitous nature of the narrator shows off when he first meets Fortunato at the carnival. Montresor acts like nothing is wrong with him and his attitude to his friend, while actually dying to take revenge, "I must not only punish, but punish with impunity." And again, the mood of the narrator changes together with the setting, as they move closer to the vaults, "...but observe the white web-work which gleams from these cavern walls." The frightening atmosphere shows us that the narrator has bad intentions towards Fortunato, although he is still trying hard to hide them behind a kind and friendly smile.

One of the most disturbing things there are in the story is Fortunato's costume, "The man wore motley. He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress, and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells." These little bells ringing from times to times throughout the story make everything more ominous, especially while walking in catacombs containing the bones of long-dead members of the Montresor family.

The fact that creates the illusion of security is Montresor's false concerns about Fortunato's health. The narrator keeps asking his friend to leave the vaults, which is how he creates this bogus feeling of friendly relations between them, but Fortunato still wants to get amontillado, so he decides to go and look for it no matter what, "...the cough is a mere nothing, it will not kill me. I shall not die of a cough."

Furthermore, as they get closer and closer to amontillado, they both get extremely excited, but form absolutely different things – Fortunato wants to get the wine, and the narrator wants to kill him for no specific reason. Then, all of a sudden, doubts appear in Montresor's heart, "For a brief moment I hesitated, I trembled." But still he gets his task completed. In his own, disturbing way.

I believe that emotions are most strongly expressed in the last paragraph. The cold-blooded Montresor does not feel satisfied as he does not see his victim, his poor friend Fortunato, begging for help and mercy. The narrator experiences despair and helplessness, "My heart grew sick; it was the dampness of the catacombs that made it so." Presumably, he is mentally stable, although he needs to commit a crime in order to satisfy his will of revenge, which is not a usual desire, but still quite common for a fictional character.

All in all, the main character, Montresor, is influenced by the general setting of the story. The overall mood of "The Cask of Amontillado" is frightening and depressing, but also interesting in its own way thanks to the descriptive details which play an important role in creating the general mood of the story.

## **LITERATURE**

1. Bloom, Harold. Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" and Other Stories / Harold Bloom. – New York : Bloom's Literary Criticism (An imprint of Infobase Publishing), 2009. – 221 pp.
2. Fisher, Benjamin F. The Cambridge Introduction to Edgar Allan Poe / Benjamin F. Fisher. – Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo : Cambridge University Press, 2008. – 137 pp.

3. Hayes, Kevin J. The Cambridge companion to Edgar Allan Poe / Kevin J. Hayes. – Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town : Cambridge University Press, 2004. – 287 pp.

Poe, E. A. The Cask of Amontillado : [Internet resource] / Edgar Allan Poe. – The access mode : <http://poestories.com/read/amontillado>