



Le Puits Et Le Pendule (French Edition)

Charles Baudelaire, Edgar Allan Poe

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Le Puits et le Pendule (The Pit and the Pendulum) est une nouvelle écrite par Edgar Allan Poe qui fut publiée pour la première fois fin 1842 dans la revue littéraire annuelle *The Gift: A Christmas and New Year's Present*. L'histoire raconte les supplices endurés par un prisonnier lors de l'Inquisition espagnole, bien que Poe déforme la réalité historique. Elle fait partie du recueil *Nouvelles histoires extraordinaires* dans son édition en français.

Le narrateur est jugé coupable par l'Inquisition espagnole de Tolède d'un crime non divulgué et se retrouve enfermé dans une cellule plongée complètement dans l'obscurité. Il s'évanouit en essayant de délimiter la taille de la pièce en longeant ses murs. Quand il se réveille, il se rend compte, en manquant de tomber dedans, qu'un puits large et profond se trouve au milieu de la pièce. Il s'évanouit à nouveau et quand il reprend ses esprits, il est allongé sur le dos, ligoté, et ne peut bouger que la tête et, de façon limitée, le bras gauche. Il se rend compte qu'une grande lame très aiguisée en forme de pendule se balance au-dessus de lui et se rapproche lentement de sa poitrine.

Il trouve un moyen d'échapper à son supplice en enduisant ses liens avec de la nourriture laissée à son intention, ce qui attire des rats qui rongent ses liens et le libèrent juste avant le moment fatidique. Mais les murs de sa prison, enflammés et rendus brûlants depuis l'extérieur, se mettent à bouger et à le cerner, le rapprochant de plus en plus du puits. Au moment où il va chuter par manque d'espace, les murs commencent à reculer et un bras le saisit, celui du général Lasalle dont l'armée vient de prendre Tolède.

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