



**El pozo y el péndulo/The pit and the pendulum:
Edición bilingüe/bilingual edition (Biblioteca
clásicos bilingüe) (Spanish Edition)**

Edgar Allan Poe

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"Larga y sin piedad es la tortura aquí por la sed de sangre inocente, sin saciar, sin alimentar, ahora que la patria está protegida y rota está la gruta fúnebre, la muerte estuvo donde ahora hay vida saludable." El narrador/protagonista comienza el relato, ya agotado, en una oscura celda en donde la inquisición española encierra a las personas que condena, y donde la tortura que esta aplica consiste en la soledad, el abandono, la oscuridad, el frío y el hambre. El torturado protagonista se encuentra atado en casi su totalidad y experimenta la angustia de conocer su próxima muerte pues un péndulo descende hacia él. Luego de medir el tamaño de su celda, este descubre un profundo pozo con agua ubicado en el centro del sitio. Seguro de que será muerto por la navaja del extremo de tal péndulo, se entretiene con la trayectoria del objeto, pero luego se le ocurre una idea, recordando que tiene a su disposición un poco de carne, comida que compartía con las ratas. Con dificultad logra rociar su cuerpo con un poco del alimento, y los roedores le saltan encima, comiendo y royendo la cuerda que le tiene atado. Ya liberado, de inmediato el péndulo se detiene y razona el hombre en cuestión que está siendo vigilado, y que ya se prepara para él una muerte quizá peor. La habitación calienta su ambiente al rojo vivo y cambia de forma reduciendo su tamaño, haciendo que las paredes se cierren en torno de el protagonista, y empujándolo al borde del ominoso pozo. El narrador se ve en la disyuntiva de morir triturado o de lanzarse al pozo que originalmente iba a ser su "sepultura". Cuando se encuentra sin más espacio para huir, totalmente desesperanzado y a punto de tirarse al pozo, una mano lo sujeta y lo salva. La mano es la de un líder militar francés que había entrado en Toledo durante las Guerras Napoleónicas y descubierto las torturas a las que eran sometidas las víctimas de la inquisición. The story depicts the Spanish Inquisition. An unnamed narrator is brought to trial before sinister judges. Poe provides no explanation of why he is there or what he has been arrested for. Before him are seven tall white candles on a table, and, as they melt, his hopes of survival also diminish. He is condemned to death and finds himself in a pitch black compartment. At first the prisoner thinks that he is locked in a tomb, but then he discovers that he is in a cell. He decides to explore the cell by placing a hem from his robe against a wall so that he can count the paces around the room, but he faints before he can measure the whole perimeter. When he reawakens he discovers food and water nearby. He tries to measure the cell again, and finds that the perimeter measures one hundred steps. While crossing the room he slips on the hem of his robe and discovers that if he had not tripped, he would have walked into a deep pit in the center of the cell, with water at the bottom. After losing consciousness again the narrator discovers that the prison is slightly illuminated and that he is bound to a wooden board by ropes. He looks up to see a painted picture of Father Time on the ceiling. Hanging from the figure is a gigantic pendulum with a crescent razor measuring "one feet from horn to horn," and swinging slowly back and forth. The pendulum is inexorably sliding downwards and will eventually kill him. However, the condemned man is able to attract rats to his bonds with the meat left for him to eat and they start chewing through the ropes. As the pendulum reaches a point inches above his heart, the prisoner breaks free of the ropes and watches as the pendulum is drawn back to the ceiling.

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