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The Outsider

1. Plural Noun _____
2. Noun _____
3. Noun _____
4. Adjective _____
5. Adjective _____
6. Conjunction _____
7. Noun _____
8. Noun _____
9. Noun _____
10. Adjective _____
11. Noun _____
12. Noun _____
13. Noun _____
14. Noun _____
15. Plural Noun _____
16. Adjective _____
17. Adjective _____
18. Adjective _____
19. Noun _____
20. Plural Noun _____
21. Location _____
22. Location _____
23. Plural Noun _____

24. Proper Noun _____

25. Proper Noun _____

26. Proper Noun _____

27. Proper Noun _____

28. Proper Noun _____

The Outsider

The _____Plural noun_____were shocking; and as I stood in the brilliant _____Noun_____alone and dazed, listening to their vanishing echoes, I trembled at the thought of what might be lurking near me unseen. At a casual inspection the room seemed deserted, but when I moved towards one of the alcoves I thought I detected a _____Noun_____ there - a hint of motion beyond the golden-arched doorway leading to another and somewhat similar room. As I approached the arch I began to perceive the presence more clearly; and then, with the first and last sound I ever uttered - a ghastly ululation that revolted me almost as poignantly as its noxious cause - I beheld in full, frightful vividness the _____Adjective_____ _____Adjective_____ _____Conjunction_____unmentionable _____Noun_____which had by its simple appearance changed a merry company to a herd of delirious fugitives.

I cannot even hint what it was like, for it was a _____Noun_____of all that is unclean, uncanny, unwelcome, abnormal, and detestable. It was the ghoulish _____Noun_____of decay, antiquity, and dissolution; the putrid, dripping eidolon of _____Adjective_____revelation, the awful baring of that which the merciful earth should always hide. God knows it was not of this _____Noun_____- or no longer of this world - yet to my horror I saw in its eaten-away and bone-revealing outlines a leering, abhorrent travesty on the human _____Noun_____; and in its mouldy, disintegrating apparel an unspeakable quality that chilled me even more.

I was almost paralysed, but not too much so to make a feeble effort towards flight; a backward stumble which failed to break the spell in which the nameless, voiceless monster held me. My eyes bewitched by the _____Noun_____orbs which stared loathsomely into them, refused to close; though they were mercifully blurred, and showed the terrible object but indistinctly after the first shock. I tried to raise my hand to shut out the sight, yet so stunned were my nerves that my arm could not fully obey my will. The _____Noun_____ however, was enough to disturb my balance; so that I had to stagger forward several _____Plural noun_____to avoid falling. As I did so I became _____Adjective_____and _____Adjective_____aware of the nearness of the carrion thing, whose hideous hollow breathing I half fancied I could hear. Nearly _____Adjective_____ I found myself yet able to throw out a hand to ward off the foetid apparition which pressed so close; when in one cataclysmic _____Noun_____of cosmic nightmarishness and hellish accident my fingers touched the rotting outstretched paw of the monster beneath the golden arch.

I did not shriek, but all the fiendish ghouls that ride the nightwind shrieked for me as in that same second there crashed

down upon my mind a single fleeting avalanche of soul-annihilating memory. I knew in that second all that had been; I remembered beyond the frightful castle and the _____Plural noun_____ and recognized the altered edifice in which I now stood; I recognized, most terrible of all, the unholy abomination that stood leering before me as I withdrew my sullied fingers from its own.

But in the cosmos there is balm as well as bitterness, and that balm is nepenthe. In the supreme horror of that second I forgot what had horrified me, and the burst of black memory vanished in a chaos of echoing images. In a dream I fled from that haunted and accursed pile, and ran swiftly and silently in _____Location_____ _____Location_____. When I returned to the churchyard place of marble and went down the steps I found the stone trap-door immovable; but I was not sorry, for I had hated the antique castle and the trees. Now I ride with the mocking and friendly _____Plural noun_____on the night-wind, and play by day amongst the catacombs of _____Proper noun_____in the sealed and unknown valley of _____Proper noun_____by the _____Proper noun_____. I know that light is not for me, save that of the moon over the rock tombs of _____Proper noun_____ nor any gaiety save the unnamed feasts of _____Proper noun_____beneath the Great Pyramid; yet in my new wildness and freedom I almost welcome the bitterness of alienage.

For although nepenthe has calmed me, I know always that I am an outsider; a stranger in this century and among those who are still men. This I have known ever since I stretched out my fingers to the abomination within that great gilded frame; stretched out my fingers and touched a cold and unyielding surface of polished glass.

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