



I said to him: “My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met. How remarkably well you are looking to-day! But I have received a pipe of what passes for Amontillado,<sup>5</sup> and I have my doubts.”

30 “How?” said he. “Amontillado? A pipe? Impossible! And in the middle of the carnival!”

“I have my doubts,” I replied; “and I was silly enough to pay the full Amontillado price without consulting you in the matter. You were not to be found, and I was fearful of losing a bargain.” 🗨️

“Amontillado!”

“I have my doubts.”

“Amontillado!”

“And I must satisfy them.”

“Amontillado!”

40 “As you are engaged, I am on my way to Luchesi.<sup>6</sup> If anyone has a critical turn, it is he. He will tell me—” 🗨️

“Luchesi cannot tell Amontillado from Sherry.”

“And yet some fools will have it that his taste is a match for your own.”

“Come, let us go.”

“Whither?”

“To your vaults.”

“My friend, no; I will not impose upon your good nature. I perceive you have an engagement. Luchesi—”

“I have no engagement;—come.”

50 “My friend, no. It is not the engagement, but the severe cold with which I perceive you are afflicted. The vaults are insufferably damp. They are encrusted with niter.<sup>7</sup>” 🗨️

“Let us go, nevertheless. The cold is merely nothing. Amontillado! You have been imposed upon. And as for Luchesi, he cannot distinguish Sherry from Amontillado.” 🗨️

Thus speaking, Fortunato possessed himself of my arm. Putting on a mask of black silk, and drawing a *roquelaine*<sup>8</sup> closely about my person, I suffered him to hurry me to my palazzo.<sup>9</sup>

60 There were no attendants at home; they had **absconded** to make merry in honor of the time. I had told them that I should not return until the morning, and had given them explicit orders not to stir from the house. These orders were sufficient, I well knew, to insure their immediate disappearance, one and all, as soon as my back was turned. 🗨️

5. **a pipe** . . . **Amontillado** (ə-mŏn'tl-ă'dô): a barrel of a wine that is supposed to be a type of pale, dry sherry, named for a town in southern Spain.

6. **Luchesi** (lŭ-kă'sē).

7. **niter**: a white, gray, or colorless mineral, consisting of potassium nitrate.

8. **roquelaine** (rôk-lô'r) *French*: a man's knee-length cloak, popular during the 18th century.

9. **palazzo** (pə-lăt'sô): a palace or mansion.

COMMON CORE L4

Language Coach

**Fixed Expressions** Many verbs take on a special meaning when followed by a particular preposition. *Impose* means “to establish by authority” (*impose a tax*). Followed by *upon*, though, it has a different meaning. Reread line 47. What does the expression *impose upon* mean here?

MOOD

Reread lines 27–55. How does Poe build a mood of suspense in this conversation between the narrator and Fortunato?

**abscond** (ăb-skŏnd')  
v. to go away suddenly and secretly