SYMBOLISM & ALLEGORY IN "THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH"
Names and People:

- **Prospero---**
  - Prosperous, successful, rich, wealth, worldly power, good life

- **People at the ball---**
  - Humanity, tendency of humans to try to escape the inevitability of death
The Masked Ball---

- Life

- Escape from reality, illusion, fleeting life
Appearance

- Masked man has no tangible form—symbolizes death, evil, time

- Death shroud splatters blood, mask looks like the face of a corpse, dotted with blood

- Ghost may be someone who has died of the Red Death

- Control is an illusion---Red Death still got in the castle
Halls/Rooms---

- Represent the **Stages of Life**, entered one at a time.
- **East to West**, symbolizes sunrise to sunset, beginning and ending of life.
- 7\textsuperscript{th} room, scary, symbolizes end of life, guests avoid it; death comes to everyone; clock is in this room.
- Prince chases death through rooms,
- stages of life
Colors of rooms---

- **Blue---** birth, beginning of life

- **Orange/green/purple---** vibrant life, carnival-like, fantasy, fullness of life

- **Red/scarlet---** blood/reminder of death

- **Black---** dark, ominous, foreshadowing
Clock---

- **Passing of time**, tangible reminder

- **Midnight** is the hour of endings, literally & symbolically binds life & time together

- **Chimes** strike out the passage of time

- **People pause every time clock strikes**, reminder of passing time/life
Allegorical Meaning---

**Masque of the Red Death**

- Life is a party, festive celebration.
- Life is transient, passing and brief.
- Wealth and power cannot stop death
- Death comes to everyone, rich or poor.