



Title	虚無と美：ポーの詩論における唯物論的背景
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Poe's Poetic Theory and Materialism

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In his short story "Mesmeric Revelation", Edgar Allan Poe illustrates his theory of corporeality. According to Poe, there are two kinds of bodies——rudimentary and complete. The former is mortal, and perceives only certain kinds and forms of matter through its five sensory organs. The latter, on the other hand, is immortal, and has perfect perception that grasps reality completely. After the death of the rudimentary body, we become able to sense with our complete body, and learn that individual existences are unreal for the immortal, though the mortal regard them as real, and that true substance is "space" itself.

This theory is not irrelevant to Poe's poetic theory. According to him, true poets who have an immortal instinct cannot be satisfied with imitating individual existence ; they long to versify "the beauty above". This is why Poe appreciates the overall effect and the indefinite of poems, rather than their representative qualities.

The aim of this paper is to investigate this theory from a theoretical background and to clarify the influence of materialism on Poe's poetic theory.