

Grateful Dead "Terrapin Station"

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Let my inspiration flow
In token rhyme, suggesting rhythm
That will not forsake you
Till my tale is told and done

While the firelight's aglow
Strange shadows from the flames will grow
Till things we've never seen
Will seem familiar

Shadows of a sailor, forming winds
Both foul and fair all swarm
Down in Carlisle, he loved
A lady many years ago

Here beside him stands a man
A soldier from the looks of him
Who came through many fights
But lost at love

While the story teller speaks
A door within the fire creaks
Suddenly flies open
And a girl is standing there

Eyes alight with glowing hair
All that fancy paints as fair
She takes her fan and throws it
In the lion's den

Which of you to gain me tell
Will risk uncertain pains of hell?
I will not forgive you
If you will not take the chance

The sailor gave at least a try
The soldier being much too wise
Strategy was his strength
Not disaster

The sailor, coming out again
The lady fairly leapt at him

That's how it stands today
You decide if he was wise

The story teller makes no choice
Soon you will not hear his voice
His job is to shed light
Not to master

Since the end is never told
We pay the teller off in gold
In hopes he will come back
But he cannot be bought or sold

Inspiration, move me brightly
Light the song with sense and color
Hold away despair
More than this I will not ask

Faced with mysteries dark and vast
Statements just seem vain at last
Some rise, some fall
Some climb to get to Terrapin

Counting stars by candlelight
All are dim but one is bright
The spiral light of Venus
Rising first and shining best

On, from the northwest corner
Of a brand new crescent moon
Crickets and cicadas sing
A rare and different tune
Terrapin station

In the shadow of the moon
Terrapin station
And I know we'll be there soon
Terrapin

I can't figure out
Terrapin
If it's the end or beginning
Terrapin

But the train's put it's brakes on
Terrapin
And the whistle is screaming
Terrapin

