

Iron Maiden

"Rime Of The Ancient Mariner 13:03"

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Hear the rime of the Ancient Mariner
See his eyes as he stops one of three
Mesmerises one of the wedding guests
Stay here and listen to the nightmares of the Sea.

And the music plays on, and the bride passes by
Caught by his spell and the Mariner tells his tale.

Driven south to the land of the snow and ice
To a place where nobody's been
Through the snow fog flies the albatross
Hailed in God's name, hoping good luck it brings.

And the ship sails on, back to the North
Through the fog and the ice the albatross follows on

The mariner kills the bird of good omen
His shipmates cry against what he's done
But when the fog clears, they justify him
And make themselves part of the crime.

Sailing on and on and North across the sea
Sailing on and on and North 'till all is calm.

The albatross begins with its vengeance
A terrible thirst a curse has begun
His shipmates blame bad luck on the Mariner
About his neck, the dead bird is hung.

And the curse goes on and on at sea
And the curse goes on and on for them and me.

"Day after day, day after day, we stuck nor breath nor
motion
As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean
Water, water, everywhere and all the boards did shrink
Water, water, everywhere nor any drop to drink."

(Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1798-1834))

There, calls the mariner, there comes a ship over the

line

But how can she sail with no wind in her sails and no
tide.

See...onward she comes
Onward she nears, out of the sun
See...she has no crew
She has no life, wait but there's two.

Death and she Life in Death, they throw their dice for
the crew
She wins the Mariner and he belongs to her now.

Then...crew one by one
They drop down dead, two hundred men
She...She, Life in Death.
She lets him live, her chosen one.

Narrative

"One after one by the star dogged moon, too quick for
groan or sigh
Each turned his face with a ghastly pang, and cursed
me with his eye
Four times fifty living men (and I heard nor sigh nor
groan),
With heavy thump, a lifeless lump. they dropped down
one by one."

(Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1798-1834))

The curse it lives on in their eyes
The Mariner he wished he'd die
Along with the sea creatures
But they lived on, so did he.

And by the light of the moon
He prays for their beauty not doom
With heart he blesses them
God's creatures all of them too.

Then the spell starts to break
The albatross falls from his neck
Sinks down like lead into the Sea
Then down in falls comes the rain.

Hear the groans of the long dead seamen
See them stir and they start to rise
Bodies lifted by good spirits
None of them speak and they're lifeless in their eyes.

And revenge is still sought, penance starts again

Cast into a trance and the nightmare carries on.

Now the curse is finally lifted
And the Mariner sights his home
Spirits go from the long dead bodies
Form their own light and the Mariner's left alone.

And then a boat came sailing towards him
It was a joy he could not believe
The Pilot's boat, his son and the hermit.
Penance of life will fall onto Him.

And the ship it sinks like lead into the sea
And the hermit shrieves the mariner of his sins.

The Mariner's bound to tell of his story
To tell his tale wherever he goes
To teach God's word by his own example
That we must love all things that God made. And the
wedding guest's a sad and wiser man And the tale
goes on and on and on.

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