

## **Townes Van Zandt**

# **"The Silver Ships of Andilar"**

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Of those that sailed the silver ships from Andilar I am  
the last  
And the deeds that rang our youthful dreams it seems  
shall go undone  
North for the shores of Valinor our bows and crimson  
sails were made  
Our captains were strong and our lances long and our  
liege the holy king

Well the hills did turn from green to blue  
And vanish as on the decks we watched  
But every thought in that noble company was forward  
bound  
To the lifeless plains of Valinor where reigns the dark  
and frozen one  
And with tongues afire and glorious eyes we pledged  
our mission be

For The clime from mild to bitter ran the wind from fair  
to fierce did blow  
Oath and prayer did turn to thoughts of homes left far  
behind  
And longed every man for some glimpse of land  
And the host that did await us there  
Oh the each new day brought only a sea and sky of ice  
and gray

Thanks give no word can drag you through  
Those endless weeks our ships did roll  
Thanks give you cannot see those sails and faces  
bleach and draw  
Ice we drank and leather did chew  
For the oceans are unwholesome there  
And the dead that slid into the seas did freeze before  
our eyes

Then a wind did fling the ships apart each one to go  
her separate way  
And The sky did howl, the hull did groan for how long I  
do not know  
And what men were left when the winds had ceased  
Grew dull and low of countenance

For soldiers denied their battle plain on comrades soon  
must turn

So one by one we died alone some by hunger, some by  
steel

And the Bodies froze where they did fall their souls  
unsanctified

Until only another and I were left then just before his  
flame did fail

We were shone ourselves brothers-in-arms to serve the  
holy king

Perhaps this shall reach Andilar although I know not  
how it can

Oh once again he's hurled his wind upon the silver  
prow

Oh if it should my words are these arise young men  
fine ships to build

Set them north for Valinor 'neath standards proud as  
fire

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