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The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (1798 - text of 1834)

Argument

How a Ship having passed the Line was driven by storms to the cold Country towards the South Pole; and how from thence she made her course to the tropical Latitude of the Great Pacific Ocean; and of the strange things that befell; and in what manner the Ancyent Marinere came back to his own Country.

PART I

1. It is an ancient Mariner,
2. And he stoppeth one of three.
3. 'By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,
4. Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

5. The Bridegroom's doors are opened wide,
6. And I am next of kin;
7. The guests are met, the feast is set:
8. May'st hear the merry din.'

9. He holds him with his skinny hand,
10. 'There was a ship,' quoth he.
11. 'Hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon!'
12. Eftsoons his hand dropt he.

13. He holds him with his glittering eye—
14. The Wedding-Guest stood still,
15. And listens like a three years' child:
16. The Mariner hath his will.

17. The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:
18. He cannot choose but hear;
19. And thus spake on that ancient man,
20. The bright-eyed Mariner.

PART II

83. The Sun now rose upon the right:
84. Out of the sea came he,
85. Still hid in mist, and on the left
86. Went down into the sea.

87. And the good south wind still blew behind,
88. But no sweet bird did follow,
89. Nor any day for food or play

90. Came to the mariner's hollo!

91. And I had done a hellish thing,
92. And it would work 'em woe:
93. For all averred, I had killed the bird
94. That made the breeze to blow.
95. Ah wretch! said they, the bird to slay,
96. That made the breeze to blow!

97. Nor dim nor red, like God's own head,
98. The glorious Sun uprist:
99. Then all averred, I had killed the bird
100. That brought the fog and mist.
101. 'Twas right, said they, such birds to slay,
102. That bring the fog and mist.

103. The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,
104. The furrow followed free;
105. We were the first that ever burst
106. Into that silent sea.

107. Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down,
108. 'Twas sad as sad could be;
109. And we did speak only to break
110. The silence of the sea!

111. All in a hot and copper sky,
112. The bloody Sun, at noon,
113. Right up above the mast did stand,
114. No bigger than the Moon.

115. Day after day, day after day,
116. We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
117. As idle as a painted ship
118. Upon a painted ocean.

119. Water, water, every where,
120. And all the boards did shrink;
121. Water, water, every where,
122. Nor any drop to drink.

123. The very deep did rot: O Christ!
124. That ever this should be!
125. Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs
126. Upon the slimy sea.

127. About, about, in reel and rout
128. The death-fires danced at night;

129. The water, like a witch's oils,
130. Burnt green, and blue and white.

131. And some in dreams assurèd were
132. Of the Spirit that plagued us so;
133. Nine fathom deep he had followed us
134. From the land of mist and snow.

135. And every tongue, through utter drought,
136. Was withered at the root;
137. We could not speak, no more than if
138. We had been choked with soot.

139. Ah! well a-day! what evil looks
140. Had I from old and young!
141. Instead of the cross, the Albatross
142. About my neck was hung.