

# Iron Maiden, Rime Of The Ancient Mariner

(Harris)

Hear the rime of the Ancient Mariner  
See his eye 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, as 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 on 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 ice and  
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 a 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 curse a thirst 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  
Onwards 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 tramp, 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 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.