

# Rime of the Ancient Mariner

## Iron Maiden

Hear the rime of the Ancient Mariner  
See his eyes as he stops one of three  
Mesmerizes 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 and the albatross follows on  
Yeah yeah yeah yeah  
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 'til 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 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, no no  
There calls the mariner, there comes a ship over the line  
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  
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  
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 tooThen the spell starts to break  
The albatross falls from his neck  
Sinks down like lead into the sea  
Then down in falls comes the rainYeah  
Yeah  
YeahHear 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 eyesAnd the revenge is still sought, penance starts again  
Cast into a trance and the nightmare carries onNow 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, yeahAnd 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 HimAnd the ship it sinks like lead into the sea  
And the hermit shrives the Mariner of his sinsThe 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 madeAnd the wedding guest's a sad and wiser man  
And the tale goes on and on and on and on

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