

The Rime of Ancient Mariner

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The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is a poem written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Poem was first published in Lyrical Ballads which is a collection of poems written with collaboration of his fellow poet William Wordsworth. Coleridge along with Wordsworth also known as the founder of the English Romantic movement. The Rime of Ancient Mariner is one of the longest poem of Samuel Taylor Coleridge written in 1797-1798 and published in 1798. The poem is in the form of ballad.

"It is an ancient Mariner."

The first line of the poem is the poet's introduces the central character Old Mariner. The central character is a little detail about Mariner's long grey beard and glittering eye and He talks about his and thin hand. The Mariner stops the wedding guest on being hypnotized by the Mariner listens to him obediently and helplessly. Now Mariner succeeded in getting full control of the wedding guest by making him agree to listen the story.

The hypnotized wedding guests sits on a stone and is left with no option but to hear the Mariner who has hypnotized him. Mariner begins his story by saying:

The ship crossed the harbour very quickly and entered into the main seawater. The sailors sailed away happily unaware from the disaster that awaited. The ship was sailing towards the south. But suddenly they get themselves caught in a deadly storm. The storm has been compared to a huge-prey bird or a winged monster that pounces upon the ship its prey. The ship was forcibly driven by the storm towards south pole, full of mist and snow. The cold was really unbearable. After a considerable time had passed an Albatross came through the fog.

Another sailors begins to feed the albatross suddenly south wind blows and the ship is able to move again.

The albatross follows the ship and the mariner calls to it and feeds it everyday. One day, the mariner shoots the albatross with his crossbow.

Notables Works :-

- 1) The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,
- 2) Kubla Khan,
- 3) Christabel.
- 4) Biographia literaria
- 5) Conversation Poems.

The another sailor accuse the mariner of killing the bird, "that made the breeze to blow". The wind stops, The old sailor says.

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion:

It all happens because the Albatross's wrongful killing had begun to show its effects. The sky looked like heated copper. The sun looked blood red. These lines tell about the locations of the ship. The ship is on near the equator because the sun is very harsh and vertical angle at noon that occurs in the equatorial region only. The ship began to cooked because of excessive heat. Due to the heat the sailors tongues dried up and they just could not speak, the mariner describes the scene:

"Water, water every where.
Nor you any drop to drink".

As punishment, they hang the dead albatross on the mariner's neck.

III
Mariner see another ship is sailing at some distance from his ship. He desires and tries to yell out loudly, but his mouth is too dry to yell. To moisten his lips he sucked his own blood. They think that they are safe now but sadly the ship is a ghost ship and the only passengers are Death and life-in-Death. As the ship comes closer, the mariner sees that both of them played the game of dice. Death win ships crew and life-in-death win Ancient Mariner.

IV
The wedding guest interrupts the story to admit that they are afraid from the Mariner. The mariner assures him that unlike everyone else on the ship, he is not dead. As he realizes that only he is left living, he tries to pray but cannot. The Mariner notices that although a week passes, the bodies on the ship do not begin to decompose. Their eyes unchanged from the moment of their deaths, still accuse him.

One night after the moon rises, the mariner notices the water snakes swirling in the water. He thinks about the lovely colors. He feels.

"A spring of love gushed from
my heart.

And I blessed them unaware;

D D M M Y Y Y Y

As soon as the mariner experiences this appreciation of the water snake and utters of the an unconscious prayer of blessing, the albatross drop from his neck and falls into the sea

V

The burden of the albatross now removed, the sailors slept at last. He dreams the buckets on the ship deck are filled with dew and he wakes to rain. The mariner drinks until his thirst is quenched. The dead arise posts on the ship. The wedding guests again admit that he is afraid, but the mariner assures him the bodies were animated by spirits not the men themselves. The dead sailors steer the ship towards home. The boats begins to speed through the water. which cause the mariner to faint from the sudden acceleration. while he is unconscious. the mariner hear two voices discussing the matter of the albatross. One voice says,

"The man hath Penance done
And Penance more will do."

VI

The voices continue to discuss the mariner and the ship. One voice says the ship will slow when the mariner awakens. As the mariner stands, the wind moves ship towards the port where the ship had started the journey. All the other men are ~~dead~~ dead again and an angel stands beside each body.

As a rescue boat approaches, the mariner is pleased to see a religious hermit. So he can make his confession to the hermit.

The Mariner hears the rescue boat's pilot and the hermit talking about the dismal condition of the ship. Suddenly mariner hears a loud noise and the ship starts to sink. The mariner is floating motionlessly in the water. So the pilot and hermit at first believe he is dead as they drag him into the rescue boat. They are stunned when the mariner begins to speak. He begs the hermit to hear his confession.

After he tells the hermit everything the mariner realizes that the experiences. relief after he tells the story. Since that time, the mariner has felt compelled to tell his story to certain people that he meets. He reveals to the wedding guest the lesson he learned as a result of his experience. Everything is worthy of reverence, the mariner says because everything was created by God.

Thus, the poem depicts that "one has to face the results of one's misdeeds". So we must not commit sins. However, if that happens, we must repent on the same. One can be free from the sins only on repentance.