

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (B.A. Part-1 Home) Paper II End

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is the longest major poem by the English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, written in 1797-98 and published in 1798 in the first edition of *Lyrical Ballads*.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner there were three guys are on the way to a wedding celebration when an old sailor (the Mariner) stops one of them at the door. Using his hypnotic eyes to hold the attention of the wedding Guest, he starts telling a story about a disastrous journey he took. The wedding Guest really wants to go party, but can't pry himself away from grizzled old Mariner. The Mariner begins his story. They left port, and the ship sailed down near Antarctica to get away from a bad storm, but then they get caught in dangerous foggy ice field. An Albatross shows up to steer them through the fog and provide good winds, but then the Mariner decides to shoot it down.

The sailor soon lose their winds, and it gets really hot. They run out of water and everyone blames the Mariner. The ship seems to be haunted by a bad spirit, and weird stuff starts appearing, like slimy creatures that walk on the ocean. The Mariner's crewmates decide to hang the dead albatross around his neck to remind him of his error.

Everyone is literally dying of thirst. The Mariner sees another ship's sail at a distance.

He wants to yell out, but his mouth is too dry, so he sucks some of his own blood to moisten his lips. He's like "A ship! we're saved". Sadly the ship is a ghost ship - Death and life - in - Death, who have to be the last people you'd want to meet on a journey. Everyone on the Mariner's ship dies.

The Wedding Guest declares that he fears the Mariner with his glittering eye and his skinny hand. The Mariner reassures the wedding - Guest that there is no need for dread, he was not among the men who died and he living man, not a ghost. Alone on the ship surrounded by the slimy sea and the slimy creatures that crawled across its surface. He tried to pray but was deterred by "wicked whispers" that made his heart "as dry as dust". He closed his eyes, unable to bear the sight of the dead men. Each of whom glared at him with the malice of their fiendly curse. For seven days and seven nights the Mariner endured the sight and yet he was unable to die. At last the moon rose, casting the great shadow of the ship across the water, they burned red. The great water snakes moved through silvery moonlight, glittering blue green and black. The snakes coiled and swam and became beautiful in the Mariner's eyes. He blessed the beautiful creatures

Date _____
Page _____
in his heart at that moment, he found himself able to pray and the corpse of the Albatross fell from his neck, sinking "like lead into the sea".

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is written in loose short ballad stanzas usually either four or six lines long but occasionally as many as lines long. The meter is also somewhat loose but odd lines are generally tetrameter while even lines are generally trimeter. There are exceptions; in five line stanza, for instance, lines one, three and four are likely to have four accented syllables - tetrameter - while lines two and five have three accented syllables. The rhymes generally alternate in ABAB or ABABAB schemes.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is unique among Coleridge's important work - unique in its intentionally archaic language. Its thematic ambiguity and the long Latin Epigraph that begins it, concerning the multitude of unclassifiable "invisible creatures" that inhabit the world. Its peculiarities make it quite atypical of its era, it has little common with other Romantic works. Rather, the scholarly notes, the Epigraph and the archaic language combine to produce the impression that the "Rime is a ballad" of ancient times, reprinted with explanatory notes for a new audience -

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Department of English
Soghrav College, Bihar Sharif

CLASSMATE
Date: _____
Page: _____

B.A. English Hons. Part I

History of English Literature

Geoffery Chaucer - 1340-1400

Chaucer's life covers the three kings of England Edward III, Richard II and Henry IV. His life is combination of glaring social contrast and political changes

Chaucer who is so much the greatest figure in the English literature of the fourteenth century. He completely threw all his contemporary into the shade was born about 1340 in London where his father was a flourishing businessman. At seventeen he received an appointment as a page to the wife of Duke of Clarence after that time he was closely connected with the court. He was often sent with diplomatic mission on the continent.

When we study Chaucer's work it is important to remember that his education as a poet was two fold. Part of it came from literature, but part of it came from life. Like Shakespeare and Milton, he was, on the contrary he was a man of the world and affairs.

Chaucer's work. Chaucer's work is divided into three periods which are called his French, Italian and

English periods. His genius was nourished to begin with the French poetry and romance. So during his youth his work received favourite reading of the court and cultivated society. Naturally being a youth he followed the fashion

Chaucer was not in any sense a poet of the people. He was a court poet who wrote for cultured people and for a refined society. The great vital issues of the day never inspired his verse. He made his appeal to the ~~to~~ audience composed of the favoured few who want to be amused by comedy or touched by pathos or moved by romantic sentiment, but who did not wish to be disturbed by painful reminders of plagues, famines and popular discontent. Thus, he holds the mirror up to the life of his time, the dark underside of it is nowhere reflected by him
