

Part 5

In this section, the mariner's healing process requires him to re-establish his relationship with humanity and with God.

The mariner is able to sleep and rediscovers the joy of nature's gifts:

O sleep! it is a gentle thing,
Beloved from pole to pole!
(lines 292-293)

The mariner is refreshed by the rain after he awakes from a dream. He hears 'sweet sounds', 'the skylark sing', 'an angel's song', and:

A noise like of a hidden brook
In the leafy month of June
(lines 369-370)

But the spirit of the South Pole 'who bideth by himself/In the land of mist and snow' (lines 402-403) is not finished with the mariner and wants more vengeance because:

He loved the bird that loved the man
Who shot him with his bow
(lines 404-405)

Coleridge shows the presence of the spirits as being blessed. The spirits have power over the natural world. They leave the ship after using the dead bodies of the crew to control the ship and the mariner. The spirits darted towards the sun, which represents God.

Mysteriously, the ship sails on, 'Yet never a breeze did breathe' (line 374). The mariner is overwhelmed by the speed of the vessel and:

It flung the blood into my head,
And I fell down in a swoond.
(lines 391-392)

Part 6

In this section, the mariner is shown to be a remorseful figure who must repent and become humble. He is haunted by the memory of his dead companions and pursued by a vengeful spirit.

The spirit of the South Pole controls the ocean. The moon looks graciously down on the mariner. The mariner cannot pray and feels cursed by the crew's stony eyes. Then he feels that 'there breathed a wind on me...' (line 452) that was 'Like a meadow-gale of spring' (line 457) and

Sweetly, sweetly blew the breeze –
On me alone it blew.
(lines 462-463)

The harbour bay was as 'clear as glass' (line 472) and 'the bay was white with silent light' (line 480).

The mariner sees the spirits of the corpses as if each one is all alight with 'a seraph-man / On every corpse there stood' (lines 490-491) and concludes that it was 'a heavenly sight' (line 492).

Part 7

In this section, the mariner receives God's forgiveness. He is restored to life among other human beings, however he is a changed man.

The mariner is ultimately rescued by a pilot and his son, and a hermit. Each of the rescuers are shocked by the mariner's appearance and the strange aura that surrounds him. The hermit is a symbol of a man who lives a pure life in harmony with nature.

The mariner's rescuers observe that the ship has a 'fiendish look' (line 538), and it goes 'down like lead' (line 549), leaving the mariner afloat.

The pilot 'shrieked/And fell down in a fit' (line 560-561). The hermit prays and asks, 'What manner of man art thou?' (line 577) The mariner's agony returns.

Coleridge ends his poem with the image of the wedding guest, who