



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

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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

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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 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 and on at sea  
And the thirst goes on and on for them and me



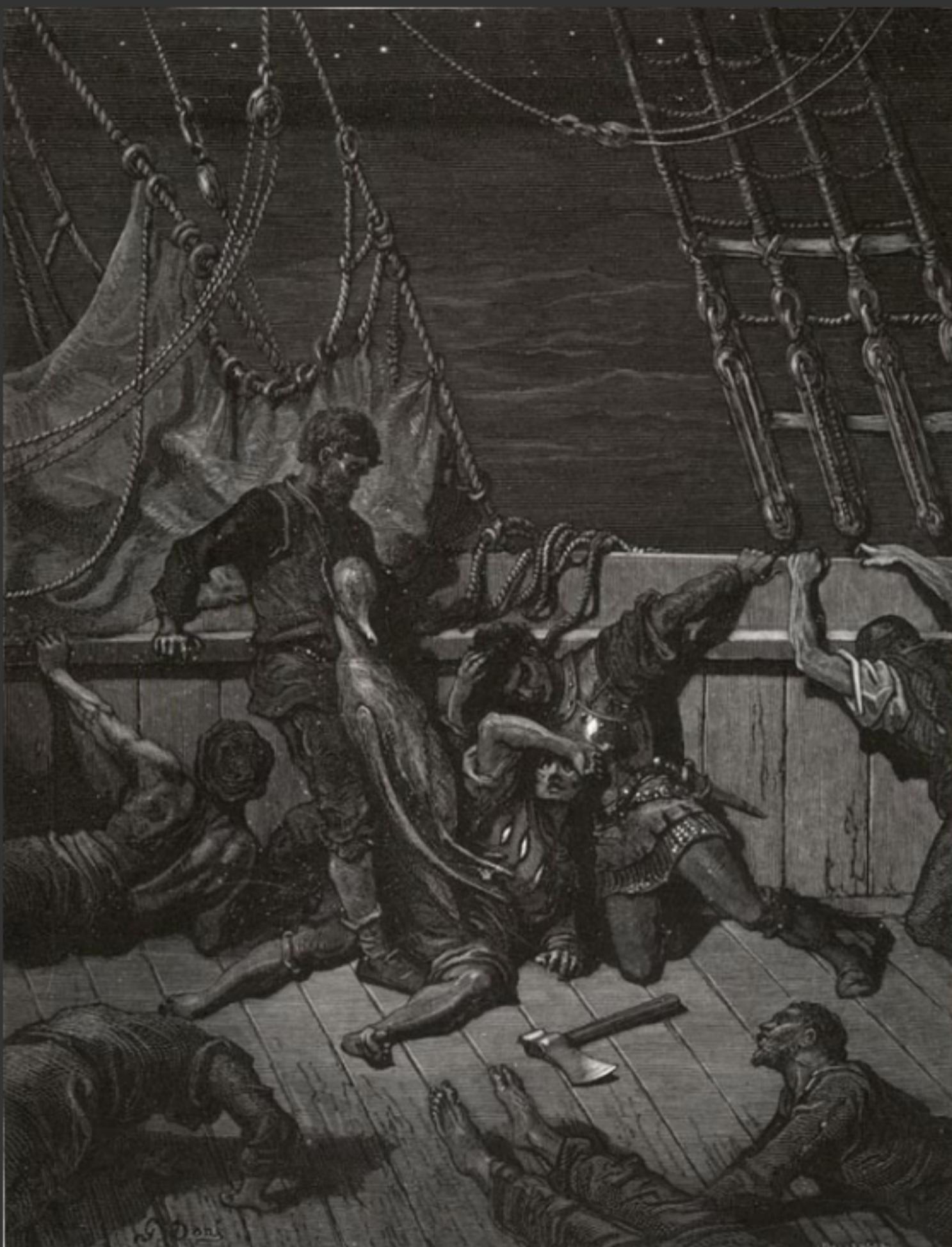
"Day after day, day after day, we stuck nor breath nor motion  
As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean  
Water, water everywhere and all the boards did shrink  
Water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink."



"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  
Onward she nears, out of the sun  
        See...She has no crew  
She has no life, wait but there's two



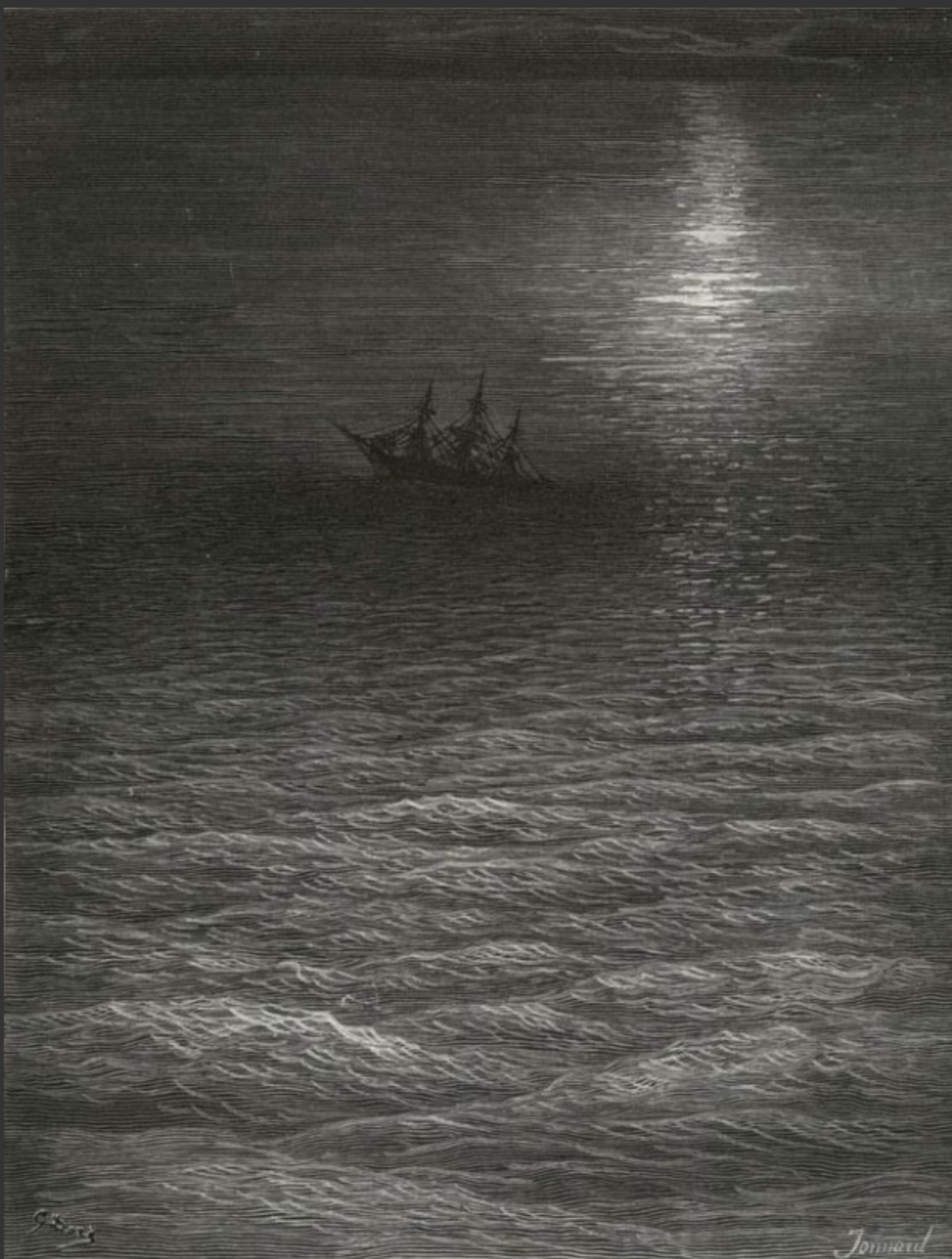
Death and she, Life-in-Death  
They throw their dice for the crew  
She wins the Mariner  
and he belongs to her now  
Then...crew one by one  
They drop down dead, two hundred men  
She...she, Life-in-Death  
She lets him live, her chosen one



"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 no 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

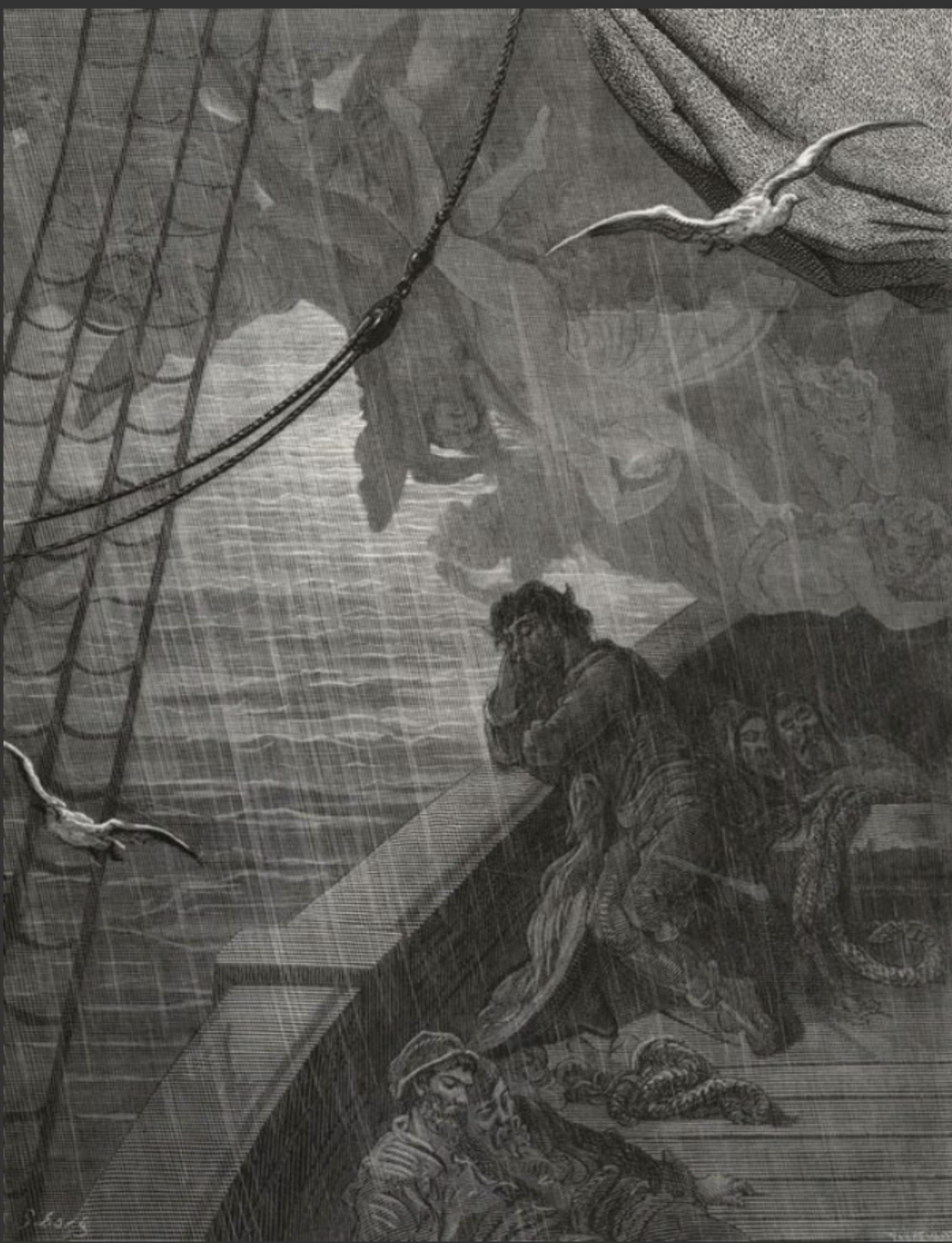


And by the light of the moon,  
he prays for their beauty, not doom  
With heart he blesses them  
God's creatures all of them too



Then the spell starts to break  
The albatross falls from his neck  
Sinks down like lead into the sea

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Then down in falls comes the rain

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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

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And revenge is still sought, penance starts again  
Cast into a trance and the nightmare carries on

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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 pilots boat, his son and the hermit  
Penance of life will fall onto him



And the ship, it sinks like lead into the sea

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And the hermit shrievs the Mariner of his sins

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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

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And the tale goes on and on...

Follow

And the tale goes on and on...



...and on and on

*Lyrics by Steve Harris, based on the poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1798. Illustrations by Gustave Doré, 1876.*