

The Rime of
The Ancient Mariner
and Other Poems

英美文学精品译注丛书

第一辑 第一册

古舟子咏

〔英〕柯勒律治 著



中国对外翻译出版公司

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《古舟子咏》

塞缪尔·泰勒·柯勒律治(1772-1834) 是英国诗歌中的一个独特人物,他为数不多的作品中包含一些未竟的杰作。使英语文学步出18世纪,采用崭新的思维表达方式,令想象重新成为文学创作的主导力量,当时要数柯勒律治的功劳最大。

1798年,他和朋友威廉·华兹华斯共同创作了《抒情歌谣集》;其中也收入了他的《古舟子咏》,即他唯一完成的主要诗篇。

《克里斯特贝尔》是部未完成的叙事诗,1816年首次出版。他为未完成部分拟定的写作计划如下:吟游诗人发现罗兰勋爵的城堡已不复存在。邪恶的女巫杰拉尔丁,不得不改容易颜,装扮成克里斯特贝尔的未婚夫。克里斯特贝尔感到莫名的厌恶,但还是准备嫁给假武士;正当这时,真武士出现,把她救出。

《忽必烈汗》也发表于1816年,是诗人在梦中创作的,大概是受了鸦片酊的影响所致。他醒来之时,赶紧将此诗写下来,但是刚写了54行就被打断了,其余的再也想不起来了。

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Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Other Poems

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 - 1834) is a unique figure in English poetry and what little he produced contains great, yet unfinished pieces. Coleridge, more than any other writer of the period, moved English literature out of the 18th century into new ways of thought and expression, restoring imagination as the ruling creative force.

In 1798 he and his friend, William Wordsworth, wrote the *Lyrical Ballads*; Coleridge's contribution included *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* which is his only complete major poem.

Christabel, which is unfinished, was first published in 1816. His plan for the rest of the narrative was as follows; the bard finds that Lord Roland's castle no longer exists. Geraldine, who is an evil enchantress, is forced to change her appearance to that of Christabel's betrothed. Despite her unaccountable revulsion, Christabel is about to marry the false knight when the true knight appears and saves her.

Kubla Khan, also published in 1816, was composed by the poet during a profound sleep, probably under the effect of laudanum. When he awoke he hastened to write down the poem but was interrupted after 54 lines and forgot the rest.

THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

PART I

*An ancient Mariner meeteth three Gallants
bidden to a wedding-feast, and detaineth one.*

It is an ancient Mariner.

And he stoppeth one of three.

'By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,

Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

The Bridegroom's doors are opened wide,

And I am next of kin:

The guests are met, the feast is set:

May'st hear the merry din.'

He holds him with his skinny hand.

'There was a ship,' quoth he.

'Hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon!'

Eftsoons his hand dropt he.

*The Wedding-Guest is spellbound by the eye of
the old seafaring man, and constrained to hear
his tale.*

He holds him with his glittering eye –

The Wedding-Guest stood still,

And listens like a three years' child:

The Mariner hath his will.

The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:

He cannot choose but hear;

And thus spake on that ancient man,

The bright-eyed Mariner.

'The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared,

Merrily did we drop

Below the kirk, below the hill,

Below the lighthouse top.

Rime: rhyme, poem.

Ancient: old. **Mariner:** sailor, one who works on a ship.

meeteth: meets. **Gallants:** men of fashion.

bidden: invited. **wedding-feast:** rich meal given to celebrate a marriage. **detaineth:** stops.

stoppeth: stops.

beard: hair on a man's face. **glittering:** shining.

wherefore: why. **stopp'st thou me:** do you stop me.

Bridegroom: man about to be married or just married.

next of kin: a close relative.

are met: have gathered together. **feast:** large and rich meal. **set:** served. **May'st:** you can. **merry:** happy. **din:** noise.

holds: *here*, detains. **skinny:** very thin.

quoth: said.

Hold off: let go. **unhand me:** take (your) hand off me. **grey-beard:** with a grey beard. **loon:** madman. **Eftsoons:** at once, immediately. **dropt:** *here*, took away. **Wedding:** marriage ceremony.

Wedding-Guest: person invited to a wedding. **spell-bound:** fascinated, enchanted. **seafaring man:** sailor, mariner.

constrained: forced. **tale:** story. **holds:** fascinates and detains.

stood still: did not move.

three years' child: a three-year-old child.

hath: has. **will:** wish, desire.

choose: *here*, do anything else. **but:** apart from. **hear:** *here*, listen. **thus:** in this way. **spake on:** continued speaking. **bright-eyed:** with shining eyes.

The ship was cheered: people shouted good wishes as the ship left. **harbour:** port. **cleared:** left. **Merrily:** happily, in good spirits.

drop: *here*, go. **did we drop:** we went. **below:** *here*, beyond.

kirk: church. **lighthouse:** building with a light to guide or warn ships.

*The Mariner tells how the ship sailed southward
with a good wind and fair weather, till it
reached the Line.*

The sun came up upon the left,
Out of the sea came he!
And he shone bright, and on the right
Went down into the sea.

Higher and higher every day,
Till over the mast at noon – '
The Wedding-Guest here beat his breast,
For he heard the loud bassoon.

*The Wedding-Guest heareth the bridal music;
but the Mariner continueth his tale.*

The bride hath paced into the hall,
Red as a rose is she;
Nodding their heads before her goes
The merry minstrelsy.

The Wedding-Guest he beat his breast,
Yet he cannot choose but hear;
And thus spake on that ancient man,
The bright-eyed Mariner.

The ship driven by a storm toward the south pole.

And now the STORM-BLAST came, and he
Was tyrannous and strong;
He struck with his o'ertaking wings,
And chased us south along.

With sloping masts and dipping prow.
As who pursued with yell and blow
Still treads the shadow of his foe,
And forward bends his head,
The ship drove fast, loud roared the blast,
And southward aye we fled.

And now there came both mist and snow,
And it grew wondrous cold:

southward: towards the south.

fair: good.

Line: equator.

he: (*note personification*) the sun.

bright: brightly.

mast: long pole for carrying the sails of a ship. **noon**: midday.

beat: hit repeatedly. **breast**: chest. **beat his breast**: lamented.

For: because. **loud**: great in volume. **bassoon**: woodwind instrument. **heareth**: hears. **bridal**: music announcing the arrival of the bride. **continueth**: continues.

bride: woman about to be married or just married. **hath**: has.

paced: walked. **hall**: large room.

Nodding: bobbing, moving up and down. **before**: *here*, in front of. **merry**: cheerful, happy. **minstrelsy**: musicians.

Yet: but.

thus: in this way. **spake on**: continued speaking.

driven: sent, forced. **storm**: very bad weather with high winds, lightning, thunder and rain. **storm-blast**: full force of the storm.

he: (*note personification*) the storm. **tyrannous**: cruel, severe.

struck: hit violently. **o'ertaking**: overtaking, passing. **wings**: limbs of a bird; *here*, wind. **chased**: *here*, drove, pushed. **south along**: towards the south.

sloping: bending, curving. **dipping**: lowering and rising. **prow**: front of a ship. **who**: a person. **pursued**: chased, followed. **yell**: loud cry. **blow**: heavy stroke. **treads**: walks on. **shadow**: dark shape on a surface caused by the interception of light rays by a solid body. **treads the shadow**: follows closely. **foe**: enemy.

bends: inclines down, lowers. **drove**: went. **roared**: made a loud noise (like a lion). **blast**: *here*, storm, force of wind. **southward aye**: always. **fled**: went quickly. **mist**: thin fog.

grew: became. **wondrous**: *here*, very.

And ice, mast-high, came floating by,
As green as emerald.

*The land of ice and of fearful sounds where no
living thing was to be seen.*

And through the drifts the snowy clifts
Did send a dismal sheen:
Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken –
The ice was all between.

The ice was here, the ice was there,
The ice was all around;
It cracked and growled, and roared and howled,
Like noises in a swound!

*Till a great sea-bird, called the Albatross,
came through the snow-fog, and was received
with great joy and hospitality.*

At length did cross an Albatross,
Thorough the fog it came;
As if it had been a Christian soul,
We hailed it in God's name.

It ate the food it ne'er had eat,
And round and round it flew.
The ice did split with a thunder-fit;
The helmsman steered us through!

*And lo! the Albatross proveth a bird of good
omen, and followeth the ship as it returned
northward through fog and floating ice.*

And a good south wind sprung up behind;
The Albatross did follow,
And every day, for food or play,
Came to the mariners's hollo!

In mist or cloud, on mast or shroud,
It perched for vespers nine;
Whiles all the night, through fog-smoke white,
Glimmered the white moon-shine.'

mast-high: as high as the masts. **floating:** resting and moving on the surface of the water without sinking. **by:** past.

fearful: terrible. **sounds:** noises.

drifts: *here*, ice or snow piled up by wind or current. **snowy:** white, covered with snow. **cliffs:** cliffs; *here*, steep high blocks of ice. **Did send:** sent out. **dismal:** horrible, causing terror. **sheen:** brightness. **ken:** could see. **between:** *here*, around.

cracked: made a harsh creaking sound. **growled:** made a deep angry sound. **roared:** made a loud sound like a lion. **howled:** made a high-pitched sound. **swound:** loss of consciousness. **Albatross:** large oceanic bird. **snow-fog:** thick cloud-like vapour near the surface, *here* caused by the cold and snow. **received:** *here*, welcomed. **At length:** after some time. **did cross:** *here*, passed. **Thorough:** through. **fog:** mass of water vapour in the air. **Christian soul:** man who believes in Christ. **soul:** spirit of a man. **hailed:** greeted, called to.

ne'er: never. **eat:** eaten.

did split: divided. **thunder-fit:** sudden loud noise. **helmsman:** man who steers a ship. **steered:** directed the course of the ship. **lo:** (*exclamation*) look. **proveth:** is seen, found to be. **omen:** sign that something is going to happen in the future. **followeth:** follows. **northward:** towards the north. **floating:** resting on the surface of the water. **sprung up:** started to blow.

hollo: cry of greeting.

shroud: *here*, sail.

perched: sat (*like a bird*). **vespers:** religious service in the evening. **vespers nine:** nine evenings. **Whiles:** while. **fog-smoke:** vapour. **Glimmered:** shone softly. **moon-shine:** light of the moon.

*The ancient Mariner inhospitably killeth the
pious bird of good omen.*

'God save thee, ancient Mariner!
From the fiends, that plague thee thus!
Why look'st thou so?' – With my cross-bow
I shot the ALBATROSS.

PART II

The Sun now rose upon the right:
Out of the sea came he,
Still hid in mist, and on the left
Went down into the sea.

And the good south wind still blew behind,
But no sweet bird did follow,
Nor any day for food or play
Came to the mariner's hollo!

*His shipmates cry out against the ancient
Mariner, for killing the bird of good luck.*

And I had done a hellish thing,
And it would work 'em woe:
For all averred, I had killed the bird
That made the breeze to blow.
Ah wretch! said they, the bird to slay,
That made the breeze to blow!

*But when the fog cleared off they justify the
same, and thus make themselves accomplices
in the crime.*

Nor dim nor red, like God's own head,
The glorious Sun uprist:
Then all averred, I had killed the bird
That brought the fog and mist.
'Twas right, said they, such birds to slay,
That bring the fog and mist.

*The fair breeze continues; the ship enters the
Pacific Ocean, and sails northward, even till it
reaches the Line.*

inhospitably: not in a hospitable way, unkindly. **killeth**: kills.
pious: sacred.

God save thee: exclamation. **thee**: you.

fiends: devils. **plague**: trouble. **thus**: in this way.

look'st thou so: do you have this expression on your face.

cross-bow: powerful weapon, consisting of a wooden cross-piece held in a curve by a length of string and fastened across a handle shaped to fire arrows. **shot**: killed.

rose: came up.

he: (note personification) the sun.

hid: hidden, not clearly seen. **mist**: light fog.

blew: moved along.

did follow: followed, came behind.

Nor ... Came: did not come. **hollo**: cry of greeting.

shipmates: companions working on the ship. **cry out**: protest loudly.

hellish: terrible, diabolical.

work 'em: cause them. **woe**: trouble, sorrow.

averred: stated, said.

made: caused. **breeze**: light wind. **blow**: move, be active.

wretch: contemptible person. **slay**: kill.

cleared off: went away.

the same: here, the action, the deed. **thus**: in this way. **accomplices**: people who help or participate.

dim: not bright. **God's own head**: the head or face of God.

glorious: splendid. **uprist**: came up.

averred: stated, said

brought: caused.

'Twas: it was.

fair: good, pleasant. **breeze**: light wind.

northward: towards the north.

Line: equator.

The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,
The furrow followed free;
We were the first that ever burst
Into that silent sea.

The ship hath been suddenly becalmed.

Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down,
'Twas sad as sad could be;
And we did speak only to break
The silence of the sea!

All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody Sun, at noon,
Right up above the mast did stand,

No bigger than the Moon.
Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

And the Albatross begins to be avenged.

Water water, every where,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where
Nor any drop to drink.

The very deep did rot:
O Christ! That ever this should be!
Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs
Upon the slimy sea.

About, about in reel and rout
The death-fires danced at night;
The water, like a witch's oils
Burnt green, and blue and white.

A Spirit had followed them; one of the invisible inhabitants of this planet, neither departed souls nor angels; concerning whom the learned Jew, Josephus, and the Platonic Constantino-politan, Michael Psellus, may be consulted.

foam: white mass of small air bubbles formed on the sea. **flew**: *here*, moved along quickly. **furrow**: *here*, long cut in the sea made by a ship. **free**: freely, without interruptions. **burst**: came.

hath: has. **becalmed**: made unable to move forward because there is no wind. **Down dropt the breeze**: the wind died. **dropt down**: became limp, not filled with wind. **'Twas**: it was. **did speak**: spoke. **to break**: to interrupt.

copper: reddish-gold metal; *here*, the colour.

bloody: red, like blood.

Right up above: directly over. **did stand**: was positioned.

stuck: were still, without movement. **breath**: *here*, a little wind.

motion: movement. **idle**: *here*, still. **painted ship**: ship in a picture. **painted ocean**: sea in a picture.

be avenged: get its revenge.

boards: strips of wood making up the ship. **did shrink**: became smaller because of the heat.

Nor: but not. **drop**: very small amount.

deep: *here*, sea. **did rot**: became decayed, putrid.

O Christ: *exclamation*. **That ever this should be**: that this could happen. **Yea**: yes. **slimy**: covered in a disgusting substance.

crawl: move slowly, pulling the body on the surface. **legs**: parts of the body used for walking, limbs.

About: all around. **reel**: unsteady movements. **rout**: disorder.

death-fires: kind of light supposed to be a sign of death. **danced**: *here*, moved. **witch**: wicked woman said to use magic for evil purposes.

witch's oils: mixture of oils in a witch's cauldron.

Burnt: *here*, shone.

neither: not.

departed souls: spirits of dead people. **concerning**: regarding.