

I must go down to the seas again,

---

to the lonely sea and the sky,

---

And all I ask is a tall ship and

---

a star to steer her by;

---

And the wheel's kick and the wind's song

---

and the white sail's shaking,

---

And a grey mist on the sea's face,

---

and a grey dawn breaking.

---

I must go down to the seas again,

---

for the call of the running tide

---

Is a wild call and a clear call

---

that may not be denied;

---

And all I ask is a windy day

---

with the white clouds flying,

---

And the flung spray and the blown spume,

---

and the sea-gulls crying.

---

I must go down to the seas again,

---

to the vagrant gypsy life,

---

To the gull's way and the whale's way

---

where the wind's like a whetted knife;

---

And all I ask is a merry yarn

---

from a laughing fellow-rover,

---

And quiet sleep and a sweet dream

---

when the long trick's over.

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AFTER the Sea-Ship—after the whistling winds;

---

After the white-gray sails,

---

taut to their spars and ropes,

---

Below, a myriad, myriad waves,

---

hastening, lifting up their necks,

---

Tending in ceaseless flow toward

---

the track of the ship:

---

Waves of the ocean,

---

bubbling and gurgling, blithely prying,

---

Waves, undulating waves—

---

liquid, uneven, emulous waves,

---

Toward that whirling current,

---

laughing and buoyant, with curves,

---

Where the great Vessel, sailing and tacking,

---

displaced the surface;

---

Larger and smaller waves,

---

in the spread of the ocean, yearnfully

---

flowing;

---

The wake of the Sea-Ship, after she passes—

---

flashing and frolicsome,

---

under the sun,

---

A motley procession, with many a fleck of foam,

---

and many fragments,

---

Following the stately and rapid Ship—

---

in the wake following.

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---

The sea awoke at midnight from its sleep,

---

And round the pebbly beaches far and wide

---

I heard the first wave of the rising tide

---

Rush onward with uninterrupted sweep;

---

A voice out of the silence of the deep,

---

A sound mysteriously multiplied

---

As of a cataract from the mountain's side,

---

Or roar of winds upon a wooded steep.

---

So comes to us at times, from the unknown

---

And inaccessible solitudes of being,

---

The rushing of the sea-tides of the soul;

---

And inspirations, that we deem our own,

---

Are some divine foreshadowing and foreseeing

---

Of things beyond our reason or control.

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The tide rises, the tide falls,

---

The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;

---

Along the sea-sands damp and brown

---

The traveller hastens toward the town,

---

And the tide rises, the tide falls.

---

Darkness settles on roofs and walls,

---

But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;

---

The little waves, with their soft, white hands,

---

Efface the footprints in the sands,

---

And the tide rises, the tide falls.

---

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls

---

Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;

---

The day returns, but nevermore

---

Returns the traveller to the shore,

---

And the tide rises, the tide falls.

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The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;

---

the Lord is robed in majesty

---

and armed with strength;

---

indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

---

Your throne was established long ago;

---

you are from all eternity.

---

The seas have lifted up, Lord,

---

the seas have lifted up their voice;

---

the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

---

Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,

---

mightier than the breakers of the sea—

---

the Lord on high is mighty.

---

Your statutes, Lord, stand firm;

---

holiness adorns your house

---

for endless days.

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---

On the same day, when evening had come, He

---

said to them, "Let us cross over to the other

---

side." Now when they had left the multitude,

---

they took Him along in the boat as He was.

---

And other little boats were also with Him.

---

And a great windstorm arose, and the waves

---

beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

---

But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow.

---

And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher,

---

do You not care that we are perishing?"

---

Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said

---

to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind

---

ceased and there was a great calm.

---

But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful?"

---

How is it that you have no faith?"

---

And they feared exceedingly, and said to one

---

another, "Who can this be, that even the wind

---

and the sea obey Him!"

---

Those who go down to the sea in ships,

---

Who do business on great waters,

---

They see the works of the Lord,

---

And His wonders in the deep.

---

For He commands and raises the stormy wind,

---

Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

---

They mount up to the heavens,

---

They go down again to the depths;

---

Their soul melts because of trouble.

---

They reel to and fro,

---

and stagger like a drunken man,

---

And are at their wits' end.

---

Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble,

---

And He brings them out of their distresses.

---

He calms the storm,

---

So that its waves are still.

---

Then they are glad because they are quiet;

---

So He guides them to their desired haven.

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