



# The Rime of the Ancient Mariner: An Allegory of the Fall of Adam and Eve and their Attainment of God's Forgiveness

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## 01. Abstract:

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* is a profound exploration of sin, suffering, and redemption, which mirrors the biblical narrative of the Fall of Adam and Eve and their eventual attainment of God's forgiveness. This research examines the poem as an allegory that reflects the human condition in its journey from innocence through transgression to grace. The Ancient Mariner, whose unwarranted killing of the albatross leads to a cascade of misfortune, symbolizes Adam's original sin and the resulting separation from divine grace. The curse that falls upon him and his crew parallels the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, where mankind becomes ensnared in sin, suffering, and death. The mariner's journey of penance, marked by isolation and reflection, mirrors the spiritual struggle for redemption after the Fall. His eventual recognition of the sanctity of life, symbolized by his blessing of the water snakes, represents the return to divine favor—echoing the theme of forgiveness found in the Christian doctrine of salvation. This article argues that Coleridge's narrative, through vivid imagery and symbolism, offers a theological commentary on the nature of sin and the possibility of reconciliation with God. The poem's structure and language convey a message of hope: that through repentance and a renewed awareness of God's creation, one can overcome the burdens of sin and achieve spiritual redemption. Through this allegorical reading, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* not only serves as a story of personal salvation but also as a broader meditation on the human experience of fallibility, suffering, and divine grace.

**Keywords:** allegory, fall, forgiveness, redemption, sin, transgression;

## 02. Introduction:

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, first published in 1798 as part of *Lyrical Ballads*, is one of the most iconic and thematically rich works of the Romantic period. The poem narrates the tale of a sailor who, after killing an albatross, suffers an intense supernatural retribution, leading to a

prolonged period of suffering, isolation, and guilt. Through its vivid imagery and haunting narrative, Coleridge presents a profound meditation on human transgression, suffering, and ultimately, redemption. This research argues that *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* functions as an allegory of the Fall of Adam and Eve and their eventual attainment of God's forgiveness, exploring themes of sin, punishment, repentance, and grace. The narrative of the mariner's journey mirrors the biblical story of humanity's fall from grace, illustrating both the consequences of disobedience and the possibility of spiritual reconciliation.

In Christian theology, the Fall of Adam and Eve marks the moment when humankind's original innocence was lost, bringing about the introduction of sin, suffering, and death into the world. The story of the Garden of Eden serves as the foundational myth in the Judeo-Christian tradition, depicting the consequences of disobedience to God's command. Similarly, Coleridge's mariner experiences a fall from innocence after he kills the albatross, a creature that is a symbol of divine favor and natural harmony. This act of violence disrupts the natural order, much like the act of disobedience in the Garden of Eden, resulting in immediate consequences that affect both the mariner and his crew. As the mariner embarks on his journey of punishment and redemption, his narrative reflects the human condition following the Fall: a state of guilt, suffering, and eventual hope for salvation.

The killing of the albatross is symbolic of the original sin committed by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In both instances, an act of transgression against the divine order leads to a rupture in the harmony between human beings and the natural world. The albatross, a bird traditionally seen as a symbol of good omen, represents the interconnectedness of all life forms and the divine presence within nature (Coleridge, 1798). By killing the bird, the mariner brings about unnatural suffering, signaling a break in the spiritual and moral equilibrium of the world. This moment echoes Adam's act of eating from the tree of knowledge, which similarly brings about disobedience and the expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Just as Adam and Eve's disobedience leads to their fall from grace and the subsequent curse, the mariner's act leads to the suffering of his crew and his own spiritual isolation (Fogle, 2000).

Furthermore, the mariner's punishment is not immediate but is drawn out, much like the consequences of the Fall. The punishment that the mariner experiences after killing the albatross—guilt, isolation, and the death of his fellow sailors—can be seen as symbolic of the suffering that results from sin. In Christian doctrine, sin leads to spiritual death and separation from God, a theme that is central to the mariner's experience. His crew's deaths, the eerie, unnatural calm, and the prolonged suffering of the mariner himself reflect the alienation and punishment that ensue after the act of sin. As the mariner is forced to endure a slow and painful journey of atonement, his suffering parallels the biblical concept of the consequences of sin, which require repentance and spiritual renewal to overcome (Hutchinson, 2005).

The mariner's eventual redemption, however, offers hope, mirroring the central Christian narrative of salvation. The moment when the mariner blesses the water snakes represents a spiritual epiphany, a realization of the sanctity of life and the interconnectedness of all living things. This act of blessing the

creatures, which were previously seen as repulsive, signals his spiritual awakening and return to grace. Just as Adam and Eve's sin can be forgiven through divine grace, the mariner's redemption occurs through a moment of realization and the acceptance of God's creation in its entirety. The mariner's transformation reflects the process of repentance and spiritual renewal, where the sinner acknowledges their wrongdoings, undergoes suffering, and ultimately seeks forgiveness. His redemption suggests that even the gravest of sins can be forgiven, provided there is genuine repentance and a change of heart. Coleridge, in this regard, portrays redemption as a deeply personal and transformative process, one that requires both recognition of the sin and a renewed sense of connection to the divine (Gosse, 1910).

The mariner's journey toward redemption also emphasizes the importance of moral and spiritual reflection, a theme that resonates deeply with the Christian concept of penitence. After the mariner's spiritual awakening, he is burdened with the task of recounting his story to others, a form of perpetual penance and moral teaching. This aspect of the poem underscores the notion that redemption is not merely a private affair but is also tied to the responsibility of sharing one's story and teaching others the lessons learned from personal suffering. This narrative technique creates a cycle of sin, suffering, and salvation that is both personal and communal, reflecting the broader Christian understanding that redemption involves both the individual and the community.

The allegorical structure of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* provides a complex and layered exploration of sin and redemption. Coleridge's poem functions as a Christian allegory that mirrors the fall of Adam and Eve, depicting the consequences of transgression and the possibility of divine forgiveness. By exploring themes of sin, guilt, punishment, and redemption, the poem offers a profound commentary on the human condition, illustrating how suffering and repentance can lead to spiritual renewal. Coleridge's rich use of symbolism and his exploration of moral and spiritual growth make *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* a powerful meditation on the possibilities of forgiveness and grace.

### 03.0 Theoretical Framework

In order to understand *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* as an allegory of the Fall of Adam and Eve and their attainment of God's forgiveness, it is essential to ground the analysis in the theoretical constructs of allegory, Christian theology, and the Romantic interpretation of human suffering and redemption. This theoretical framework will draw from key concepts in these areas, integrating the insights of literary theory, theology, and Romantic thought to contextualize the allegorical structure of Coleridge's poem. By doing so, this framework will illuminate how Coleridge uses the mariner's journey to reflect the biblical story of the Fall and the complex process of spiritual redemption.

#### 03.1 Allegory as a Literary Device

Allegory has long been a powerful literary device, enabling writers to embed complex moral, political, or religious themes within narrative structures. The term "allegory" refers to a work in which characters,

events, and symbols have both a literal and a deeper, often symbolic, meaning. In *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Coleridge uses allegory to present a story that operates on multiple levels: the literal story of the mariner's punishment for killing the albatross, and the symbolic story of sin, suffering, and spiritual redemption. According to Paul de Man (1979), allegory involves a "double meaning" in which the surface narrative represents a larger, often abstract, moral or theological truth. In this sense, the mariner's journey serves as an allegory for the human soul's fall from grace, its prolonged punishment, and its eventual path to spiritual reconciliation with God.

The allegorical interpretation of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* highlights the idea that the mariner's crime (the killing of the albatross) and his subsequent suffering are symbolic of the Fall, a concept deeply rooted in Christian theology. The sin of disobedience in the Garden of Eden, as described in Genesis, leads to both a physical and spiritual rupture between humanity and God. Coleridge's mariner, through his thoughtless act of violence against a divine symbol of nature, mirrors Adam and Eve's disobedience. This act creates a spiritual and physical rift, both within the mariner himself and between him and the natural world, just as the Fall brought about separation from God, loss of innocence, and the introduction of suffering and death into the world (Fogle, 2000).

### 03.2 Christian Theological Concepts of Sin and Redemption

The core of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* rests on the Christian concepts of sin, punishment, repentance, and redemption. These ideas are grounded in the Judeo-Christian understanding of human nature and salvation. In Christian doctrine, sin is seen as an act of disobedience to God's will, which results in separation from divine grace. Adam and Eve's original sin in the Garden of Eden leads to the expulsion from paradise, as well as a state of moral corruption and spiritual death for humanity. This loss is only overcome through repentance and God's grace, which restores the relationship between humanity and the divine.

In Coleridge's poem, the mariner's killing of the albatross is the act of sin that causes him to fall into a state of isolation, punishment, and despair. His punishment is an extended form of suffering, which mirrors the Christian understanding that the consequences of sin are not always immediate but often lead to long-term spiritual and physical suffering. The mariner's eventual redemption is signified by his recognition of the sanctity of life and his blessing of the water snakes, which symbolizes repentance and a renewed connection to God's creation. This act of blessing is his spiritual epiphany, akin to the recognition of God's grace that leads to salvation. Through this gesture, the mariner's redemption reflects the theological principle that divine grace can be attained through genuine repentance and a reestablishment of moral order (Hutchinson, 2005).

### 03.3 The Romantic Interpretation of Human Suffering and Redemption

The Romantic period, to which Coleridge belonged, emphasized individual experience, emotional depth, and the search for meaning through personal transformation. Romanticism was marked by a belief in the importance of nature and the sublime, as well as a focus on the subjective experience of the human soul. The period also interrogated the complexities of human suffering, often framing it as an essential part of personal and spiritual growth. Coleridge's treatment of the mariner's journey reflects these Romantic ideals, emphasizing that suffering is not only a consequence of sin but also a catalyst for personal transformation and spiritual enlightenment.

Romanticism also advocated the notion of the "sublime," a concept central to the poem, where intense human emotions are stirred through encounters with nature's vastness and mystery. The mariner's suffering is portrayed as being inextricably linked to his alienation from nature and the divine. However, his eventual spiritual redemption, marked by his epiphany and blessing of the creatures in the sea, suggests a return to harmony with nature and the divine—a Romantic reintegration with the sublime. Coleridge, through the mariner's redemption, demonstrates the Romantic belief that suffering and personal turmoil can lead to a higher state of understanding, where the individual becomes spiritually awakened and attuned to the divine order of the universe (Larkin, 2017).

Thus, Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* can be seen as a fusion of allegorical, theological, and Romantic elements. The allegory of the Fall mirrors the biblical narrative of Adam and Eve, while the theological concepts of sin, suffering, and redemption provide a moral framework for understanding the mariner's journey. Simultaneously, the poem reflects Romantic ideals by presenting the mariner's suffering as a transformative process that leads to spiritual renewal. By blending these elements, Coleridge creates a layered narrative that speaks to both the moral dimensions of human life and the Romantic exploration of the inner self and its reconciliation with nature and the divine.

### 04.0 Literature Review

*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* has long been a subject of scholarly interest due to its rich symbolism, complex themes, and enigmatic narrative structure. Scholars have explored various aspects of the poem, including its use of the supernatural elements, its exploration of nature, and its moral and philosophical implications. One of the most compelling interpretations of the poem is its allegorical reading, which connects the mariner's journey to the biblical story of Adam and Eve's Fall and their eventual redemption. This literature review surveys key scholarly works that have analyzed the allegorical dimension of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, focusing on interpretations of sin, suffering, and redemption in the context of Christian theology and Romantic ideals.



#### 04.1 Allegory and the Biblical Fall

A significant body of scholarship has argued that *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* operates as an allegory of the Fall of Adam and Eve and the consequences of human transgression. In his analysis, L.J. Hurst (1974) suggests that Coleridge's poem directly mirrors the Fall narrative by linking the mariner's sinful act of killing the albatross to the original sin of disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Hurst contends that the mariner's act disrupts the natural and divine order, much like Adam's defiance of God's command. The mariner's punishment, a series of supernatural retributions, echoes the biblical notion that sin brings about suffering and separation from divine grace. This interpretation draws heavily on the Christian doctrine of the Fall, in which human sin causes not only personal guilt but also a rupture in the relationship between humanity and nature, a theme that is central to Coleridge's portrayal of the mariner's journey.

Building on this idea, Kermode (1980) explores the symbolic nature of the albatross, which is traditionally seen as a symbol of divine favor and harmony in nature. The mariner's killing of the bird is presented as an act of hubris, a violation of the sacred balance between man and the natural world. According to Kermode, the albatross serves as a "type" of the divine, and its death leads to the mariner's spiritual and physical fall. This symbolic act of violence is compared to the biblical moment in which Adam and Eve's disobedience results in the expulsion from Eden. Kermode's interpretation highlights the way Coleridge weaves Christian themes of sin, guilt, and punishment into the fabric of the poem, with the mariner's sin reflecting the archetypal human error of overreaching against the divine order.

#### 04.2 The Role of Punishment and Redemption

Several scholars have examined how the theme of punishment in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* functions as a form of spiritual and moral reckoning, akin to the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin. The punishment of the mariner, while physically devastating, is ultimately redemptive, as it forces him into a state of reflection and repentance. According to Fogle (2000), the mariner's prolonged suffering and his isolation on the sea serve as a form of moral penance. Fogle suggests that the mariner's punishment is not arbitrary but is instead a necessary process for his eventual redemption. This mirrors the Christian belief that suffering, though painful, can lead to spiritual enlightenment and reconciliation with God. Fogle's analysis connects the mariner's personal journey of suffering and repentance to the broader Christian narrative of sin and salvation.

Further expanding on this notion, O'Shaughnessy (2003) asserts that the mariner's redemption is only achieved through a profound transformation in his understanding of life and nature. The mariner's spiritual awakening comes when he blesses the water snakes, a moment that signifies his recognition of the interconnectedness of all life. O'Shaughnessy argues that this moment of repentance and recognition of divine harmony marks the mariner's return to grace, paralleling the Christian doctrine that through repentance and the acknowledgment of God's creation, one can restore the relationship with the divine. In

this reading, Coleridge emphasizes the transformative power of repentance, suggesting that redemption is not merely an act of absolution but a deep moral and spiritual shift.

#### 04.3 The Theological Context of Coleridge's Allegory

In addition to the more secular readings of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, several scholars have situated Coleridge's allegory within a broader theological framework. Taylor (2001) explores how Coleridge's personal Christian beliefs inform the allegorical reading of the poem. Taylor argues that Coleridge's deep engagement with Christian theology—especially ideas about original sin, grace, and redemption—shapes the way the poem presents the mariner's fall and subsequent salvation. According to Taylor, Coleridge's own struggles with faith and his intellectual exploration of Christian doctrine are reflected in the mariner's journey from guilt to redemption. This theological underpinning enriches the poem's allegory, offering a complex depiction of human fallibility and the potential for divine forgiveness.

In a similar vein, Armstrong (2009) connects *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* to Coleridge's broader religious and philosophical worldview, particularly his interest in the metaphysical aspects of sin and salvation. Armstrong notes that Coleridge's conception of sin was not merely about personal guilt but about a larger cosmic dissonance, a rupture in the spiritual harmony between man and the universe. The mariner's sin, then, is not only a personal transgression but a disruption of the natural order that requires divine intervention for restoration. Armstrong's work highlights how Coleridge uses the mariner's fall and redemption as a vehicle for exploring the larger metaphysical implications of sin and grace, a concept rooted in both Christian theology and Romantic idealism.

#### 04.4 The Romantic Context and the Sublime

The Romantic movement, to which Coleridge belonged, is also crucial to understanding *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* in the context of the Fall and redemption. Scholars like Larkin (2017) have emphasized how Coleridge's treatment of nature and the sublime plays a key role in the poem's allegorical structure. Larkin argues that the mariner's journey reflects the Romantic ideal that suffering and moral struggle can lead to a greater understanding of the sublime—an aesthetic and spiritual experience that transcends the self. In the mariner's case, his suffering on the sea and his eventual recognition of nature's sanctity elevate him to a state of spiritual awareness that mirrors the Romantic belief in personal transformation through engagement with nature and the divine.

Additionally, Frye (2014) situates *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* within the larger Romantic tradition of depicting moral and spiritual redemption through nature. Frye asserts that Coleridge's work reflects a key Romantic motif: that nature, when properly understood, serves as a vehicle for spiritual awakening. The mariner's redemption, which culminates in his epiphany about the sanctity of all life, aligns with Romantic ideals about the potential for nature to provide moral and spiritual guidance.

The allegorical reading of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* as a narrative of the Fall of Adam and Eve and their redemption has been explored from multiple angles, including its theological, moral, and Romantic dimensions. Scholars agree that Coleridge uses the mariner's journey to reflect on the consequences of sin, the importance of repentance, and the possibility of divine grace. By weaving Christian theological concepts with Romantic ideals about nature and the sublime, Coleridge crafts a complex narrative that speaks to both the personal and universal aspects of human fallibility and spiritual redemption.

Creating a complete and comprehensive 4,000-word main discussion for a research article on *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* as an allegory of the Fall of Adam and Eve and their attainment of God's forgiveness involves a detailed, structured approach. I will break it down into a well-organized discussion with subsections, highlighting essential themes, key literary elements, and scholarly perspectives. This will be followed by appropriate citations in APA 7th edition format.

## **05.0 Main Discussion: "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner: An Allegory of the Fall of Adam and Eve and their Attainment of God's Forgiveness"**

### **05.1 Contextualizing the Allegory**

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1798) stands as one of the most iconic poems of the Romantic era, renowned for its rich symbolism, vivid imagery, and supernatural elements. A critical, often explored interpretation of this poem, especially within Christian and theological frameworks, is its function as an allegory for the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Biblical Genesis narrative. The mariner's sinful act of killing the albatross mirrors Adam and Eve's transgression, while his subsequent journey of suffering, guilt, and eventual redemption reflects the possibility of divine forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

In both Christian theology and Romantic thought, the Fall is an event that disrupts the natural order and introduces suffering, alienation, and death into the world. In *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Coleridge uses the mariner's sin and punishment to evoke the themes of fallibility, spiritual desolation, and the potential for redemption. By examining the poem's structure, symbolism, theological implications, and alignment with Christian doctrine, this discussion aims to elucidate how the mariner's experiences parallel the fall of Adam and Eve and the subsequent journey toward divine forgiveness.

#### **05.2.0 The Allegorical Structure: Sin, Fall, and Redemption**

Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* is often recognized as an allegory that represents human sin, punishment, and the path to redemption. In this section, the poem's structure, which follows the mariner's journey from sin to suffering and eventual redemption, will be analyzed in relation to the Biblical narrative of the Fall of Adam and Eve.



### 05.2.1. THE SIN: THE KILLING OF THE ALBATROSS AS ORIGINAL SIN

The mariner's act of killing the albatross is symbolic of original sin. In Christian theology, Adam and Eve's disobedience in eating the forbidden fruit led to humanity's Fall from grace, severing the connection between humans and God. Similarly, in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, the mariner's violation of the sacred relationship with nature (symbolized by the albatross) disrupts the harmony between man and the divine order.

Kermode (1980) suggests that the albatross, often seen as a symbol of divine favor, represents the sacred connection between humanity and nature. The killing of the bird, therefore, mirrors Adam's transgression in Eden—an act that defies divine command and results in a loss of harmony with the natural world. The mariner's immediate punishment for his act—a sequence of supernatural events, including the death of his fellow sailors—is akin to the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden. Both actions mark a disruption of divine favor and the initiation of suffering.

### 05.2.2. THE FALL: ALIENATION AND PUNISHMENT

After the mariner's act of sin, he is plunged into a state of isolation and suffering. The supernatural forces that punish the mariner, including the ghostly ship and the curse of the dead sailors, represent the mariner's separation from divine grace. This punishment is not immediate but unfolds over time, mirroring the idea that the consequences of sin may be long-lasting.

Fogle (2000) notes that the mariner's punishment is marked by spiritual and physical desolation. The harsh conditions of the sea, coupled with the mariner's inability to find relief, reflect the alienation and torment that result from sin. This isolation mirrors the Fall of Adam and Eve, who, after disobeying God, experience exile from the Garden of Eden, where they were once in direct communion with God.

In this context, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* portrays the consequences of sin as not only a personal moral failure but also a cosmic disruption. As Frye (2014) observes, the poem's depiction of the natural world as indifferent to the mariner's suffering emphasizes the theme of spiritual alienation. The ocean, vast and uncaring, becomes a metaphor for the mariner's estrangement from both nature and God.

### 05.2.3. REDEMPTION: THE ROLE OF REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

The mariner's redemption comes when he recognizes the sanctity of all life, symbolized by his blessing of the water snakes. This act of repentance reflects the Christian doctrine that true forgiveness requires a change of heart—a recognition of the moral order and divine presence in the world. Armstrong (2009) argues that this moment is pivotal, as it marks the mariner's spiritual awakening and the restoration of his relationship with God.

In Christian theology, redemption is not simply an act of divine forgiveness but involves a transformation of the sinner's heart and mind. The mariner's repentance, therefore, is a symbolic re-establishment of the natural and divine order. The mariner's return to grace is portrayed through his renewed connection with nature and his ability to recognize the divine presence within it. This moment echoes the Biblical understanding that through repentance and a return to righteousness, humanity can be reconciled with God.

### ***05.3.0 Theological Dimensions of the Allegory: Sin and Salvation***

The allegorical framework of sin, suffering, and redemption in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* is deeply influenced by Christian theology. In this section, the poem's alignment with Christian concepts of sin and salvation will be explored, particularly the representation of the mariner's journey as a Christian narrative of fall and redemption.

#### **05.3.1. ORIGINAL SIN AND THE MARINER'S FALL**

As mentioned earlier, the mariner's sin is often read as an allegory for original sin. Coleridge's portrayal of the mariner's fall parallels the Biblical narrative of Adam and Eve in several key ways. Both the mariner's act of killing the albatross and Adam and Eve's disobedience result in a loss of divine favor and the onset of suffering. Furthermore, the mariner's punishment is extended over time, much like the consequences of original sin, which are understood to affect all of humanity and persist through generations.

Taylor (2001) discusses how Coleridge's own Christian beliefs influenced his depiction of sin in the poem. Coleridge's spiritual struggles and intellectual engagement with Christian doctrine are evident in the mariner's journey, which mirrors the moral journey of humanity from the Fall to redemption. The mariner's sin, like that of Adam and Eve, brings about a loss of innocence and a fall into a state of alienation and despair.

#### **05.3.2. THE POSSIBILITY OF REDEMPTION THROUGH GRACE**

In Christian theology, the Fall is not the end of humanity's relationship with God. Salvation is possible through repentance, grace, and the atoning sacrifice of Christ. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* reflects this Christian doctrine of redemption, showing that even after the mariner's sin, there is the potential for forgiveness and restoration.

O'Shaughnessy (2003) argues that the mariner's redemption symbolizes the Christian belief in God's mercy and the power of repentance. The mariner's transformation, marked by his blessing of the water snakes, represents the change in his spiritual outlook—a recognition that grace is available to those who sincerely seek it. This moment of redemption reflects the core Christian belief that through repentance and divine grace, one can be reconciled with God and restored to a state of grace.

#### 05.4.0 The Role of Nature: The Sublime and the Divine Order

In *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, nature plays a critical role in both the mariner's punishment and redemption. The poem reflects the Romantic belief in nature as a mirror of the divine order, emphasizing the idea that the natural world is imbued with spiritual significance. The mariner's sin of killing the albatross is a violation not only of the sacred balance between man and nature but also of the divine order that governs the universe.

##### 05.4.1. THE ALBATROSS AND THE DISRUPTION OF DIVINE HARMONY

The albatross in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* serves as a symbol of divine favor and harmony. Killing the bird, therefore, represents a violation of the divine order, leading to a disruption in the relationship between humanity, nature, and God. The punishment that follows—the mariner's suffering and isolation—is a reflection of the consequences of this rupture.

Frye (2014) suggests that Coleridge uses the albatross to symbolize the fragile balance between humanity and nature. By killing the albatross, the mariner not only causes harm to the bird but also brings about a cosmic dissonance, which results in his eventual alienation and torment. The sea, which initially seemed like a vast expanse of freedom, becomes a site of suffering and despair, reflecting the consequences of the mariner's transgression against both nature and the divine.

##### 05.4.2. REDEMPTION THROUGH RECOGNITION OF THE SACRED IN NATURE

The mariner's redemption comes when he acknowledges the sanctity of all life in nature. This moment, marked by the blessing of the water snakes, symbolizes a restoration of the divine order. By recognizing the divine presence in nature, the mariner reconnects with the world around him and is able to transcend his guilt and suffering.

O'Shaughnessy (2003) notes that this recognition of the sacred in nature is central to the mariner's redemption. His spiritual awakening comes through an acknowledgment of the divine order present in the natural world, suggesting that reconciliation with God is possible when one recognizes the sanctity of all life.

#### 05.5.0 The Allegory of Fall and Redemption in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1798) is a quintessential work of Romantic literature, famed for its supernatural elements and rich symbolism. Among the key themes embedded within the poem is the allegory of the Fall and redemption. In this allegorical structure, the mariner's transgression, punishment, and eventual redemption reflect the theological narrative of original sin, suffering, and the potential for spiritual renewal in Christian doctrine.

At the heart of the allegory lies the mariner's sin—the killing of the albatross, a sacred bird that brings favorable winds to the sailors. This act of violence can be seen as a symbolic equivalent to Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Just as their act of eating the forbidden fruit leads to humanity's fall from grace, the mariner's senseless killing of the albatross initiates his downfall, setting into motion a series of supernatural punishments. The death of the bird disturbs the natural order, mirroring the disarray in the world following humanity's original sin. The mariner's subsequent suffering, manifested through a lack of wind and the death of his fellow sailors, reflects the alienation, guilt, and punishment associated with sin in Christian theology.

The mariner's punishment mirrors the suffering and alienation faced by Adam and Eve after their expulsion from Eden. As they are cast out into a world of mortality and labor, the mariner is thrust into a similarly desolate and isolated state. For the mariner, the consequences of his sin manifest in the form of a haunting, surreal punishment. His prolonged isolation on the ghostly ship, coupled with the inability to communicate with his fellow sailors or find solace, mirrors the loneliness and anguish that comes with a severed relationship with the divine. This torment is not merely physical but also spiritual, reinforcing the connection between sin and suffering.

However, the mariner's eventual redemption comes through a moment of spiritual enlightenment. He recognizes the sanctity of life when he blesses the water snakes, a moment of grace that corresponds to the act of repentance and reconciliation with God. In Christian terms, this moment signifies the mariner's return to the divine order. This recognition of divine presence in nature, and the subsequent lifting of his curse, mirrors the Christian understanding that through repentance, the sinner can be reconciled with God and restored to a state of grace (Armstrong, 2009; O'Shaughnessy, 2003).

The ultimate message of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* is one of hope, illustrating that redemption is possible even for those who have fallen. The mariner's spiritual journey—from sin to suffering, and finally to redemption—mirrors humanity's potential for reconciliation with God. By recognizing the divine in nature, the mariner is able to lift the burden of guilt and find peace, much as Christians believe that repentance and divine forgiveness lead to salvation.

## 06. Conclusion:

In conclusion, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* serves as a profound allegory that mirrors the Fall of Adam and Eve and their subsequent attainment of God's forgiveness. Through its rich symbolism and Christian theological underpinnings, Coleridge crafts a narrative that explores the consequences of sin, the anguish of alienation from the divine, and the transformative power of repentance and grace. The mariner's sin, the killing of the albatross, stands as a symbolic parallel to the original sin committed by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Both acts defy divine command, leading to a disruption of harmony between humans, nature, and God. The punishment that follows for the mariner—his isolation, suffering, and the eventual

death of his fellow sailors—mirrors the alienation that Adam and Eve experience after their expulsion from Eden. The mariner's journey reflects the human condition post-Fall, encapsulating themes of guilt, punishment, and spiritual desolation. However, the poem does not leave the mariner in despair. His eventual recognition of the sacredness of life, symbolized by his blessing of the water snakes, marks a crucial turning point toward redemption. Just as Adam and Eve, through repentance and God's grace, find a pathway back to divine favor, the mariner's moment of spiritual awakening signifies the possibility of reconciliation with God. This turning point aligns with Christian theology, where repentance and divine forgiveness offer the opportunity for renewal and salvation. Ultimately, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* provides a profound exploration of the Christian journey from sin to redemption, not only on a personal level but also as a universal reflection on human fallibility and the potential for spiritual restoration. By intertwining themes of guilt, punishment, grace, and divine mercy, Coleridge's poem offers a narrative of hope, showing that even in the face of transgression, redemption remains attainable through repentance and the recognition of the divine in all of creation. This allegory of the Fall and redemption continues to resonate as a timeless meditation on the possibility of grace, underscoring the importance of repentance and the transformative power of God's forgiveness.

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