

God save thee, Ancient Mariner! Stories of the Book of Genesis and their relation to The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

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Patchwork, No. 4., 2020.

Stručni rad



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Puni tekst: [engleski](#), [pdf \(263 KB\)](#)

str. 75-82

preuzimanja: 10*

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Sažetak

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* has some obvious Christian influences, from the angelic troop to the blessing of the water snakes. However, this paper proposes that Coleridge made the poem as a form of reversal of the stories found in the Book of Genesis, especially the stories of Cain and Noah's Ark. It suggests that the moral dimension of the poem, which is one of its most important features, is directly connected to Cain's murder of his brother and to Noah's dove as a bird of good omen. The harshness of the punishment is a point of tension in the poem, but this essay gives examples of God being just as punishing in the Book of Genesis, so the punishment of the Mariner is not without a predecessor. The story of the Fall is also transformed because Coleridge uses the image of a snake – or a water-snake – to return the Mariner to the world of prayer, while the snake in the Book of Genesis is responsible for tempting Eve and thus causing the Fall from Eden. Other elements that further connect the poem to the Book of Genesis are listed. A connection is also made between *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and another poem by Coleridge, "The Wanderings of Cain", which can be seen as sibling

poems, both in how they came to be and in the predicament of their main characters.

Ključne riječi

[Book of Genesis](#); [The Rime of the Ancient Mariner](#); [Christian symbolism](#); [the Fall](#)

Hrčak ID: 244488

URI

<https://hrcak.srce.hr/244488>

Posjeta: 18*



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Srce

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (originally The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere) is the longest major poem by the English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, written in 1797–98 and published in 1798 in the first edition of *Lyrical Ballads*. Some modern editions use a revised version printed in 1817 that featured a gloss. Along with other poems in *Lyrical Ballads*, it is often considered a signal shift to modern poetry and the beginning of British Romantic literature. "God save thee, ancient Mariner! From the fiends that plague thee thus! - Why look'st thou so?" The helmsman steered, the ship moved on; Yet never a breeze up blew; The mariners all 'gan work the ropes Where they were wont to do; They raised their limbs like lifeless tools - We were a ghastly crew. The body of my brother's son Stood by me, knee to knee: The body and I pulled at one rope But he said nought to me." "I fear thee, ancient Mariner!" "Be calm, thou Wedding-Guest! Poem analysis of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* through the review of literary techniques, poem structure, themes, and the proper usage of quotes. 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. The Sun came up upon the left, Out of the sea came he!