



# The Tale of Old Ma Shipwreck

Where breakers crash on the shoreline,  
Where screaming sea winds blast,  
Where black rocks sulk in the shadows  
That the lonely sea cliffs cast,  
Where the shouts of sailors carry  
On the surly swell of the sea,  
There did Old Ma Shipwreck  
Once come to call for me.

Her back was bent and twisted  
Hair white as the salt sea foam  
But when the grim storm giants were roaring  
Out on the rocks she'd roam.  
Though her face was folded with wrinkles  
Of seventy years and more,  
When the night was wild and starless,  
She would stalk that rocky shore.

When our sails were torn and useless  
When our ships were tossed at sea  
When we sailors knelt on the deck to pray,  
Out in the storm she'd be.  
Searching the rushing blackness  
With her weak eyes, watery and old,  
Searching for ships full of sorrow,  
Searching for ships full of gold!

Fingers bent as the claws of a crab  
Teeth ragged as a shark,  
She stood with a lantern on the blackest rock  
A lantern in the dark!  
And for us poor storm-chased sea dogs  
Lost in the endless night,  
She lit what we longed for most of all  
A gentle guiding light!



“A light!” yelled our Captain through the gale,  
“Lads, they’re guiding us to shore!”  
How could we know as we turned our sail  
What Old Ma had in store?  
Ships before ours had followed that hope  
To where rocks stand sharp like teeth,  
Where the fangs of a hungry, yawning mouth  
Gulp you down to the depths beneath!

Dark waves swallowed my Captain  
Dark waves swallowed the crew  
Our ship cried out like a wounded beast  
And darkness was all that I knew.  
Down to the depths we tumbled  
But not before I saw  
Old Ma scabble for a bag of our gold  
That had washed up on the shore.

As she reached for the gold she slithered  
This thing of bones and skin  
She slipped from the black and lonely rocks  
And dark waves dragged her in.  
Where breakers crash on the shoreline,  
By the surly swell of the sea,  
You can still hear Old Ma Shipwreck  
On the night she called for me.

