Satyrs, Syphilis, and Sailors: The Influence of Gaius Petronius’ Satyricon Liber on Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”

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Abstract

For generations, Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” has befuddled readers. This project argues that many of its apparent puzzles disappear once we recognize its base text as the Satyricon Liber, Gaius Petronius’ first-century vulgar comedy. Attending to Coleridge’s broader literary corpus alongside images of sexual dysfunction in “The Rime” itself to justify this foundational claim, I then explore how a comic source transforms the reader’s experience of “The Rime” and its criticism. “The Rime” refutes cohesive readings as a horror-poem because it was never intended as pure horror: rather, the poem is Coleridge’s attempt to modernize a classic, low-browed farce.

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are Christianity and the supernatural.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge was an English poet, critic and a philosopher. He was born on October 21st at Ottery St. Mary, Devonshire. Coleridge is best known for his three great romantic poems: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Kubla Khan and Christabel. 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is structured into balladic stanzas which is a rare piece in English literature. The poem is a very long poem depicting a tale of crime and punishment. [highlight]A Message from Team Beamingnotes: [/highlight]We at Beamingnotes have recently launched a new site, an English literature portal [highlight]Myeduz.in[/highlight].