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Sub :- English (M.A, CC-6, Unit-2, Sem-II)

Topic :- The Rime of The Ancient Mariner.
: Samuel Coleridge.

Q) How is the Mariner punished for his crime?
How does it end?

Ans The Rime of the Ancient Mariner written by Samuel Coleridge is in fact a story of the Mariner who killed the bird Albatross impulsively and wantonly. The bird however symbolises a good soul of nature because as it appeared in the story, we find that it brings good luck to the sailors and the ship. But the moment the Mariner killed the bird, the situation became bad to worse for the Mariner and the sailors. In ~~short~~ short the poem begins with the crime done by the Mariner and later on the suffering and punishment caused to mariner due to this crime.

The suffering and penances of the Mariner are utterly out of proportion to the slightness of the crime. He is pursued by a dark and sinister fate. The Supernatural being, Life-in-death

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symbolize the form of punishment which the Mariner has to suffer. ~~The~~ All the shipmates of the ancient Mariner condemned his action of killing the Albatross. They said that he had killed the bird of good omen who had caused the favourable wind to blow. They declared the Mariner a wretched being for having killed the Albatross.

Soon their fear proved true, the ~~of~~ mariner found ~~the~~ a dramatic change in the nature; the wind which drives the ship southward is the storm-blast, tyrannous and strong and the bloody and glorious Sun seems a living being, now appearing accusingly like a broad and burning face and now 'like God's own head.' The Moon and stars and the Ocean are instinct with power and seem to conspire with the avenging spirits against him. The only thing he can do to die passively under the terrifying strokes of fate and necessity.

As the poem progresses we find their condition getting bad to worse. Some of the sailors had had dreams that the spirit of the sea-bird is following them. There is no water for them to drink. They removed the cross-bow (which is used for killing the bird) from round his neck and hung the dead Albatross there. When there is no hope of their survival, then

suddenly he saw a ship sailing towards them, they all filled up with hope, the mariners prayed to Virgin Mary to have mercy on them, but soon their hope collapsed when they saw a skeletal ship approaching them. There were one man and woman in the ship, That horrible woman was Life-in-Death. Soon, the ancient Mariner saw his fellow sailors drop down dead one by one two hundred living men. Here we find that the sailors death was painful but their pain ended with their death. ~~But~~ while the Mariner has started his voyage of an ~~an~~ un-ending painful life all alone and deserted.

For seven days and seven nights he faced the cursing eyes of his comrades, who were dead, ~~but~~ yet he could not die. In such a pathetic situation, he saw ~~the~~ some water snakes and got enchanted with their beauty and blessed them. As soon as he praised their beauty, the Albatross fell from his neck and the things turned soothing for him, he once again able to pray to Virgin Mary and he fell asleep. ~~He~~ In his dream he saw the bucket full of water and after waking up found the rain and the ship also started to sail. To his astonishment all the dead persons wake up and started to perform their tasks automatically as if they were

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machine. In his state of unconsciousness he heard ~~the~~ two voices, one of it was, the Spirit of Justice and the other, the spirit of Mercy. The spirit of Mercy declared that the Mariner had done a great deal of penance and would be doing still more penance.

At last he reached his home town and here another truth was waiting for him all the 200 sailors were dead again and the good soul, which has entered in their body had left it. The ship was also drowned in the sea along with the ~~re~~ 200 sailors, only he was survived and saved by the boatman & Hermit.

He narrated this story first to that Hermit and ~~since then~~ after that his agony returned to him at irregular intervals, he knew no peace till he had related his horrible story to someone. Thus

Thus we find that what great agony it meant for the Mariner to remain alive, we shall find that Coleridge has proved life-in-death, life-in-death meant to Coleridge a mixture of remorse and loneliness. The sailors who died in the ship has much lighter punishment than the mariner because the mariner has a life-long process of penance, while their pain ended with their death.