

SYMBOLS IN *THE ANCIENT MARINER* 45

Voice, Polar Spirit and Hermit, and the chief supporting symbols (not considered here)—the unselected Wedding-Guests and the one of three, the Albatross and the skylark, the ship and the home country, the corpses and the seraphs, and the reluctantly listening Wedding-Guest of Part I as against the sadder and wiser man of Part VII who “turned from the bridegroom’s door”—these constitute an imaginative harmony, a parabolic wholeness that we dare not ignore, for the poet does for all humanity what the Mariner does for the Wedding-Guest. He speaks to the idealist in each of us, and makes us poets too.