

Kraken

We'd been hours at the chase when she sounded
Showed flukes and she dived down below
The bold harpooneer kept his watch far and near
But she never came back up to blow
All night we lay by in the whaleboats
And we saw no spouts, though the weather was clear
Our ropes they lay coiled as a fortune in oil
Disappeared like she never was there

*There's many strange things on the ocean
And a lost ship can never be found
So hoist up your glass and remember, my boys
That night on the Japanese ground*

At dawn the ship came to collect us
By evening we saw spouts once more
The mate was a-cursing, each man's lungs were bursting
As he mightily hauled on his oar
The harpoon was darted, and we were made fast
And the line snapped tight as she did run
And she made for the depths after one final breath
As out of the tub the line spun

Chorus

Now any old whaler can tell you
That even the strongest old bull
Has the depth he can dive before he must arise
And pay for his boldness in full
Whales dive deep, but the whale-lines are longer
As greenhorns and whalemens all know
So we gazed open-mouthed as the line it ran out
And at once we were dragged down below

Chorus

In terror we kicked, treading water
And called out for the other two boats
By the grace of the Lord we were soon hauled on board
And shaken, but safely afloat

Once more we saw our ship returning
In the bright crimson light of the dawn
Then the seabirds rose shrieking at once as if speaking
That something was dreadfully wrong

Chorus

All at once the sea boiled for furlongs around
Like a drunk the ship started to sway
And a hundred long arms, each one white as a corpse
Coiled out from deep under the waves
In a moment they'd wrapped all around her
In a grasp so impossibly strong
And she gave one last groan and she heeled on her side
And in one dreadful moment was gone

Chorus

After two days adrift in the whaleboats
A Portugese sighted us there
We were taken on board and dropped in the Azores
As back to their home they repaired
In New Bedford they cursed us as liars
And the owners denied us our fee
But be damned to you all, for I know what I saw
And I'll never go back on the sea

Chorus

Composed by: Alex Sturbaum

Appears on *Loomings* (bonus track)

A song about a whaleship that encounters a kraken. The placement on the Japanese whaling grounds is a nod to Dr. Tsunemi Kubodera, who captured the first images of a giant squid in its natural habitat in the deep waters off Japan.