

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

[www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

## We Have Fed Our Sea for a Thousand Years

We Have Fed Our Sea for a Thousand Years  
(words by Rudyard Kipling, music by Peter Bellamy)

We have fed our sea for a thousand years  
And she calls still unfed  
Tho' there's never a wave of all her waves  
But marks our English dead  
We have strawed our best to the weeds unrest  
To the shark and the sheering gull

If blood be the price of admiralty  
Lord God, we ha' paid in full

There's never a flood goes shoreward now  
But lifts a keel we manned  
There's never an ebb goes seaward now  
But drops our dead on the sand  
But slinks our dead on the sand forlorn  
From the Dulcies to the Swin

If blood be the price of admiralty  
If blood be the price of admiralty  
Lord God, we ha' paid it in.

We must feed our sea for a thousand years  
For that is our doom and pride  
As it was when they sailed with the Golden Hind  
Or the wreck that struck last tide  
Or the wreck that lies on the spouting reef  
Where the ghastly blue lights flare

If blood be the price of admiralty  
If blood be the price of admiralty  
If blood be the price of admiralty  
Lord God, we ha' bought it fair.

part of Kipling's Song of the English  
SOF