

The Day Namotu's Ship Came In

C

It was a fair and pleasant day,

-----F

All shining sand and sea;

-----C

The waves were gently rolling in,

-----D-----G

Borne by a tropic breeze;

-----C

Borne by a tropic breeze, me lads,

-----F

Borne by a tropic breeze,

-----C

Namotu sat as he often sat

-----G-----G7--C

In the shade of a rub-a-gub tree.

In the shade of a rubagub tree,

Now what do you think 'bout that?

Such a curious sight this elephant might

As on his bench he sat;

As on his bench he sat, me lads,

As on his bench he sat;

His brown suitcase and bumbershoot,

And sporting a red top hat.

And as he gazed beyond the foam,

Such longing and despair,

He wished with all his aching heart

Some ship might take him there;

Some ship might take him there, me lads,

Some ship might take him there;

He'd grieve no more this jungle shore

And drive away dull care.

Then, a flash of white upon the blue,

Was that a sail he spied?

Could that speck be his ship,

Sailing on the evening tide?

Sailing on the evening tide, me lads,

Sailing on the evening tide,

That ship grew clear as she drew near,

"My ship's come at last!" he cried.

"My ship's come at last!" he cried,

And his top hat he did wave,

He gave a toot from his great trunk

As she anchored in the bay;

She anchored in the bay; me lads,

She anchored in the bay;

They launched a lifeboat overside,

And pulled in through the spray.

As Namotu dashed to greet the boat,

He was most surprised to see,

An elephant seated in the bow

Waving back at he;

Yes, waving back at he, me lads,

Waving back at he,

A pink straw hat perched on her pate

As jaunty as could be.

He gallantly offered her his trunk,

As she stepped out on the shore,

"What a paradise this is," said she,

"Who could ask for more?"

Oh, who could ask for more, me lads?

Who could ask for more?

She curled her trunk all round his neck,

Saying, "Who could ask for more?"

And she curled her trunk all round his neck,

Saying, "Who could ask for more?"

Notes:

This song is inspired by “The Day Namotu’s Ship Came In,” painted by Paul Bond, 24” X 20”, 2014, San Clemente, CA.

Bond in turn was inspired by a quote from T.S. Elliot: "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

Bond went on to say: “Namotu leaves his jungle paradise for what he hopes will be a grander life. Perhaps he will find it. And perhaps, he will simply come to discover that his source of happiness was no further than the depths of his own heart. It doesn’t always require an external journey to discover it. But following the callings of our hearts is the only truly worthy voyage in life.”

My own song ended up with a different twist to the plot.