

**BALLADS AND
BARRACK ROOM
BALLADS, PP. 1-216**

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Ballads and Barrack Room Ballads, pp. 1-216 by Rudyard Kipling

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RUDYARD KIPLING

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BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS



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By Rudyard Kipling



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To

WOLCOTT BALESTIER

*Beyond the path of the outmost sun, through utter dark-
ness hurled,
Further than ever comet flared or vagrant star-dust swirled,
Sit such as fought and sailed and ruled and loved and made
our world.*

*They are purged of pride because they died; they know the
worth of their bays;
They sit at wine with the Maidens Nine, and the Gods of
the Elder Days—
It is their will to serve or be still as fitteth our Father's
praise.*

*'Tis theirs to sweep through the ringing deep where Asrael's
outposts are,
Or buffet a path through the Pil's red wrath when God goes
out to war,
Or hang with the reckless Seraphim on the rein of a red-
maned star.*

*They take their mirth in the joy of the earth—they dare not
grieve for her pain—
For they know of toil and the end of toil—they know God's
Law is plain;
So they whistle the Devil to make them sport who know that
sin is vain.*

*And oftimes cometh our wise Lord God, master of every
trade,
And tells them tales of the Seventh Day—of Edens newly
made,
And they rise to their feet as He passes by—gentlemen un-
afraid.*

*To these who are cleansed of base Desire, Sorrow and
Lust and Shame—
Gods, for they knew the heart of Men—men, for they
stooped to Fame—
Borne on the breath that men call Death, my brother's spirit
came.*

*Scarce had he need to cast his pride or slough the dross of
earth.
E'en as he trod that day to God, so walked he from his
birth—
In simpleness and gentleness and honour and clean mirth.*

*So, cup to lip in fellowship, they gave him welcome high
And made him place at the banquet board, the Strong Men
ranged thereby,
Who had done his work and held his peace and had no fear
to die.*

*Beyond the loom of the last lone star through open darkness
hurled,
Further than rebel comet dared or hiving star-swarm
swirled,
Sits he with such as praise our God for that they served
his world.*