

# The Scorpion Departs But Never Returns

Phil Ochs

Sailors climb the tree, up the terrible tree  
Where are my shipmates have they sunk beneath the sea?  
I do not know much, but I know this cannot be  
It isn't really, it isn't really,  
Tell me it isn't really.

Sounding bell is diving down the water green  
Not a trace, not a toothbrush, not a cigarette was seen  
Bubble ball is rising from a whisper or a scream  
But I'm not screaming, no I'm not screaming,  
Tell me I'm not screaming.  
Captain will not say how long we must remain  
The phantom ship forever sail the sea  
It's all the same.

Captain my dear Captain we're staying down so long  
I have been a good man, I've done nobody wrong  
Have we left our ladies for the lyrics of a song?  
That I'm not singing, I'm not singing  
Tell me I'm not singing

The schooner ship is sliding across the kitchen sink  
My son and my daughter they won't know what to think  
The crew has turned to voting and the officers to drink  
But I'm not drinking, no I'm not drinking  
Tell me I'm not drinking  
Captain will not say how long we must remain  
The phantom ship forever sail the sea  
It's all the same.

The radio is begging them to come back to the shore  
All will be forgiven, it'll be just like before  
All you've ever wanted will be waiting by your door  
We will forgive you, we will forgive you  
Tell me we will forgive you  
But no one gives an answer not even one goodbye  
Oh, the silence of their sinking is all that they reply  
Some have chosen to decay and other chose to die  
But I'm not dying, no I'm not dying  
Tell me I'm not dying  
Captain will not say how long we must remain  
The phantom ship forever sail the sea  
It's all the same.