

### **Odysseus's Order**

Too long have I a ruler been  
The whip that drives men from despair  
Stifling myself to give them air

Their captain, king, what does that mean?  
I'm but the caulk that plugs the hull  
A makeshift lodestone, stray star-beam

Then bind me to the heedless mast  
While honeyed death the sirens sing  
As from my mind all will they wring  
At last I shall be free, at last!

*Reuben Thomas*

*22nd November 2003*