

Loreley Poem

Word-by-Word English

Translated by Dale Murrish of Troy, Michigan
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Former Indiana University Honors Program
student in Krefeld, Germany, 1977, from
Highland High School, Highland, Indiana
(7 week study program – kein Englisch)



Loreley Poem

- A classic Siren Song of a temptress luring men to their death
- by Heinrich Heine of Germany, 1824
- Music by Friedrich Silcher of Germany, 1837
(Germany tune on many cell phones)



Die Loreley

Ich weiß nicht was soll es bedeuten,
Dass ich so traurig bin;
Ein Märchen aus alten Zeiten,
Das kommt mir nicht aus dem Sinn.

I don't know what is the meaning,
That I'm so doggone sad;
A fairy tale of old,
I can't get it out of my head.



Die Loreley

Die Luft ist kühl und es dunkelt,
Und ruhig fließt der Rhein;
Der Gipfel des Berges funkelt
Im Abendsonnenschein.

The air is cool and it darkens,
And quietly flows the Rhine;
The peak of the mountain sparkles
In the evening sunshine.



Die Loreley

Die schönste Jungfrau sitzt
Dort oben wunderbar;
Ihr goldnes Geschmeide blitzet,
Sie kämmt ihr goldenes Haar.

The most beautiful maiden is sitting,
Up there so wondrously fair;
Her golden jewelry is gleaming,
She's combing her golden hair.

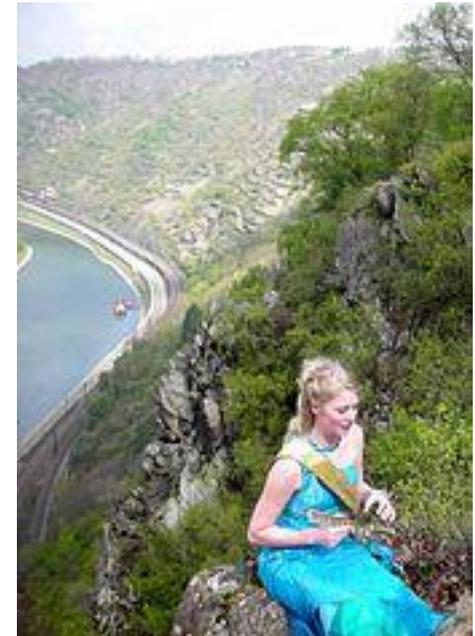


Emil Krupa-Krupinski:
Loreley, 1899

Die Loreley

Sie kämmt es mit goldenem Kamme
Und singt ein Lied dabei;
Das hat eine wundersame,
Gewaltige Melodei.

She combs it with golden comb
And sings a song so free,
It has a wonderful,
Powerful, mighty melody.



Tradition: enthronement
of the new Loreley on
April 13, 2012

Die Loreley

Den Schiffer im kleinen Schiffe
Ergreift es mit wildem Weh;
Er schaut nicht die Felsenriffe,
Er schaut nur hinauf in die Höh.

The sailor in tiny vessel
Is awestruck by the sight;
(literally *seizes it with savage woe/pain*)

He pays no mind to the rock-reefs,
His eyes are glued to the height.



Loreley from Spitznack
(St. Goarshausen on the far
bank)



Ships are directed by
light signals in this
dangerous area; a barge
carrying acid capsized
in January 2011.

Die Loreley

Ich glaube, die Wellen verschlingen
Am Ende Schiffer und Kahn;
Und das hat mit ihrem Singen
Die Lore-Ley getan.

I'm thinking the waves are devouring,
In the end both sailor and boat;
And that with her siren singing
The Lore-Ley has wrought.



Statue of Loreley
by Ernst Herter:
Heinrich Heine
memorial in The
Bronx, New York
City

Translation Notes

- The old-fashioned American word “doggone” was deliberately used in opposition to the coarse language used today. We should restigmatize swearing and make it shameful again. Using bad language is air pollution.
- Wrought is another old-fashioned word not in common use in this way anymore:
 - A past tense and past participle of **work**. 1. Put together: *carefully wrought*. 2. Shaped by hammering with tools. 3. Made delicately or elaborately.
- On May 24, 1844, Samuel Morse sent the first telegraph message "What hath God wrought?" from the Supreme Court chamber in the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to the B & O Railroad Depot in Baltimore, Maryland. It's part of Numbers 23:23, an Old Testament Bible verse.
- Vielen Dank to Humboldt University (Berlin) students for help with the translation.

About USA Melting Pot

- With GM Powertrain coworkers Weilou Gao of Troy, Michigan and Marcus Chen of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dale is one of the leaders of the USA Melting Pot club.
- This new club is unique in building bridges between ethnic groups that already have their own clubs but usually do not mingle with each other.
- For more information, read troy.patch.com/blog_posts/building-bridges-across-oceans or visit the club's website at <http://USAmeltingpot.org>
- Past presentations on the culture and home countries of different ethnic groups, outdoor activities, hobbies and travel are posted there.
- Eventually we hope to plant similar clubs to help other countries keep their languages and culture as our world gets smaller, faster and less personal with wide use of English on the internet.



USA Melting Pot Purpose

- To help newcomers assimilate into the USA and mingle with all ethnic groups
- To celebrate ethnic background & cultural identity, including American culture
- To provide a forum for conversational English
- To encourage face to face dialogue in our increasingly technology-dependent world.



USA Melting Pot.de?

- Mentioned the possibility of a club in Berlin if the university students there like the concept
 - This sister club would promote assimilation into Germany of all ethnic groups and conversational German, face-to-face dialogue etc.
- Loreley tourist office plans to post this translation on their website
- Word-by-word translation of Stille Nacht Christmas song is complete but not published yet
 - different than the traditional English translation