

LYRICS TO "ELLIS ISLAND TRILOGY"

I. THE EMIGRANT'S SONG

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**GOODBYE TO YOU ALL DEAR FRIENDS OF MY CHILDHOOD
I KNOW ALL TOO WELL THAT I'LL SEE YOU NO MORE
BUT I PRAY THAT YOUR LOVE WILL PROTECT AND SUSTAIN ME
AS I STRUGGLE ALONE ON THAT FAR DISTANT SHORE**

**WHERE I THINK OF NO MAN AS A BROTHER OR ENEMY
AND ALL FACES ARE STRANGE ONES NOT PLEASANT TO SEE
BUT I HOPE NOW TO SHARE IN YOUR LOVE AND GOOD WISHES
AS I START MY NEW LIFE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE!**

**FAREWELL TO YOUR HILLS AND YOUR GREEN RIVER VALLEYS
WHERE SO OFTEN I ROAMED IN THE BRIGHT SUMMER DAYS
FAREWELL TO MY PARENTS, DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS
MY HEART WEEPS WITHIN AS WE PART IN OUR WAYS**

**THE LORD ALONE KNOWS WHAT WE GO TO ENCOUNTER
IN THAT FAR WESTERN COUNTRY BEYOND THE WILD SEA
AND MAY YOU WHO REMAIN PRAY EACH DAY FOR OUR SAFETY
AS WE START OUR NEW LIFE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE!**

II. THE VOYAGE

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**WE CAME FROM DISTANT HOMELANDS
IN THE HOLDS OF RUSTING SHIPS
TO OUR NEW HOME FAR ACROSS
THE GREY AND STORMY WESTERN SEA
WE LEFT BEHIND THE ONLY KIND OF LIFE WE UNDERSTOOD
AND IN GOD'S OWN HANDS PLACED OUR UNCERTAINTY**

**BEFORE US LAY A MYSTERY
AND BEHIND US WAS THE PAST
HOW HARD IT WAS TO SAY
THAT LONG AND TEARFUL LAST FAREWELL
THE BONDS OF HOME WERE STRONG
AND NEVER EASY TO ESCAPE
AS WE SAILED AWAY TO HEAVEN ... OR TO HELL!**

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**BUT OUR VOYAGE IS A LONG ONE
AND THE SEA IS NEVER KIND
THE SHIP IS OLD AND THE FOOD IS BAD:
WHY DID WE EVER LEAVE?**

**FOR DAYS WE FIGHT THROUGH HOWLING GALES
AND PRAY TO SEE THE SUN
MAY HEAVEN'S KING PRESERVE US
TILL WE REACH THE GOLDEN LAND!
MAY HEAVEN'S KING PRESERVE US
TILL WE REACH THE GOLDEN LAND!**

III. WELCOME TO AMERICA!

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**SAILING IN PAST SANDY HOOK
ANCHORING FOR QUARANTINE
MANY BUILDINGS, LOTS OF SMOKE
HERE AND THERE A SPOT OF GREEN
- *WELCOME TO AMERICA!***

**BAGS ARE LOST AND PAPERS TOO
WIFE AND CHILDREN START TO CRY
MEN WITH BADGES TALK SO FAST
ASK FOR HELP AND THEY REPLY:
- *WELCOME TO AMERICA!***

**THE BIGGEST PLACE I'VE EVER SEEN
MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN IN MY HOME TOWN
NOT SURE JUST WHAT I HAVE TO DO
MY HEAD IS SPINNING ROUND AND ROUND
- *WELCOME TO AMERICA!***

**BUT STEP OUTSIDE AND HAVE A LOOK
AT THE LADY WITH HER TORCH AFLAME:
THERE'S NOT A ONE OF US HERE TODAY
WHO DOES NOT KNOW THAT LADY'S NAME
OR THINKS HE KNOWS THE BLESSED WORDS
IN THE BOOK SHE HOLDS FOR ALL TO READ:
THE WORDS THAT BROUGHT US HOPEFUL HERE
WHERE LIBERTY IS GUARANTEED
- *WELCOME TO AMERICA!***

LYRICS TO "ELLIS ISLAND TRILOGY"

**GOD BROUGHT US SAFE
TO THIS LAND OF HOPE
LAND OF DREAMS, OUR GOLDEN LAND
- *WELCOME TO AMERICA! WELCOME TO AMERICA!***