

Ali was a sailor's son  
Joined the merchant fleet at twenty-one  
Dreams of ports in distant lands  
A bag of figs and some low-grade heroin

As the years rolled by at sea  
Ali thought about his destiny  
Tired of the sailor's life  
Ali thought he'd find himself a wife

Lisbon, Guangzhou, Taipei, Bandung,  
Naples, Brunei, Capetown, Shanghai,  
Bangkok, Pusan, Dublin, Luzon,  
Lima, Dakar, Cypress, Malta

Sometimes things aren't what they seem  
Late one night our sailor had a dream  
A queen of Indonesian lore  
A voice he'd loved a thousand years or more

Lisbon, Guangzhou, Taipei, Bandung...

When the typhoon struck at dawn  
Ali had his finest civvies on  
All the crew were cramped below  
And with a smile into the sea he dove

Lisbon, Guangzhou, Taipei, Bandung...