Shipwreck

It was late in the winter When the weather was bitter With the storm rolling in Bringing death and disaster The silence of night Like gun fire was shattered No shelter was left For the poor and the wretched Drums rolled and crashed And the angels were singing On the cliffs as I watched The distant sail sinking Master and slave to their death Were sent flying Under the waves luminous corpses would grin Like the sharks who were waiting No prayers were answered No preference of class no deals could he done Grown men would cry Like a child for its mother The violence of nature Could not be appeased Throw down a line Shine me a light I'm your prodigal son And what I've seen ain't right Throw the first stone Show me a sign I'm your prodigal son Tell me what has been done The night that we sailed There were crowds on the quay side Full of fear & excitement Of an unknown tomorrow The old world left behind us We sailed to the horizon The voyage was uneventful we had sailed there before Until the night one mile from the headland In a moment of truth A pathetic twist of fortune I'd heard a voice in my head I'd ignored it Was it a warning & how would I know All the hopes & the dreams on the rocks they were shattered No invitation was offered to debate the outcome As I left that ship I was leaving a graveyard What help could I offer in defence against the sea