

Full fathom Five

This song is sung by Ariel, the airy spirit of the enchanted isle, in Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* (1611, 1623). He sings the song to Ferdinand, prince of Naples. The music was composed (1611?) by the lutenist Robert Johnson (1582-1633), who entered King James I's service as lutenist in 1604. He became the songwriter of "The King's Men", the premier theatrical company of the time, for which Shakespeare wrote his later plays and of which he himself was a member.

Full fathom five thy father lies;
Of his bones are coral made;
Those are pearles that were his eyes:
Nothing of him that doth fade,
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something rich and strange
Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell.
Hark! now I hear them, ding-dong, bell.