

## **Bligh's Benighted Bounty.**

On a sunny Monday morning young William  
Bligh left his Lambeth house to walk to the docks  
As the new commander of the mercantile ship  
Bounty he needed to check manifests and cabin locks.

Little did he realise that in crossing the tumultuous  
Pacific seas with a cargo of breadfruit  
That half of his mongrel crew were to plan  
Mutiny, express insolence and grab any loot.

But as every keen and newly appointed  
Supervisor needs to know  
Expecting the unexpected of rule number  
Eleven is a very wise place to go.

The ship sailed out of Deptford docks with his  
Old pal Fletcher Christian on board  
Little did poor Will know that Christian would  
Eventually threaten him with a naked sword.

He could have heeded rule number ten about  
Observing people who try to hide being sly  
And remembered Shakespeare's tragic play  
Where Julius Caesar dies with an agonising cry.

As the ship sailed East from the Capes two sailors Fryer  
And Purcell got the worst abuse from Bligh over laxness  
But William suffered from manic depression and  
Sought to drive ship and men to a speed of excess.

Had he reflected on Rudyard Kipling's rule number  
Nine as he sailed through the black night  
He might have realised that for the future sometimes  
It is better to be kind than to be right.

Unfortunately, he's got paranoid schizophrenia  
said Fletcher Christian to Israel Hands  
The captain forgets Rule Number Eight to take your  
Medicine regularly when travelling to foreign lands.

As a beautiful white albatross came close whilst  
Wheeling across the brilliant blue sky  
Deranged ancient mariner Samuel Taylor picked up a  
Musket and let a bullet fly.

The lucky bird escaped the shot with the result  
Of natural world one.....human spoilers nil.  
The old fool should have heeded nautical rule  
Number seven that shooting at birds puts you in peril.

As the Bounty sailed on East the Captain allowed Vincent  
Neil to lead singing of the motley crew on the deck  
But Tommy Lee the helmsman joined in raucously  
And only just avoided driving on to a sunken wreck.

A savage and annoyed Bligh upon punishment of a  
Tough nature was determinedly bent  
He should have behaved according to Oscar Wilde's  
Rule number six that familiarity breeds contempt.

Then mizzentop sailor Ben Gunn shouted out he  
    Could see smoke from a distant land  
So a self-satisfied Bligh thought by use of sextant  
    And compass all had gone as he planned.

But as dear William was regarding himself as a  
    Commander of status at least ten feet tall  
He might have remembered his Bible and rule  
    Number five where pride goes before a fall.

As the sun beat down without mercy it brought the  
Black Dog nature into William's mood with the men  
He would curse and punish so badly that even Officers  
Trelawny and Smollet would intervene now and then.

If only William could have known Andre Previn's approach  
To conducting which knowledge of which he had wealth  
That by using rule number four...when you can't control  
    Everyone you need to control yourself.

In between loading breadfruit and supplies some crafty  
Sailors were bedding down pretty native girls  
And two thieving seadogs Billy Bones and Elljay  
Silver were after the poor lasses pearls.

Just like Bernie Madoff and Nick Leeson the two  
Chancers forgot rule Number Three  
That cheats never prosper and if you've crooked  
Ways they'll never set you free.

After several months to and fro the ship hauled anchor  
But below decks mutiny was proposed by Rob Crusoe  
However, more temperate words were voiced by Fletcher  
Christian, Job Anderson and Daniel Defoe.

When a vote was cast in favour to steal ship and  
Contents whilst putting Bligh and pals to sea  
They should have read Ecclesiastes Rule number two  
Where vanity of vanities all is vanity.

The mutiny took place with lightning speed and Bligh  
With loyalists were forced into a boat  
Tearful Jim Hawkins cabinboy was allowed to join  
Them as away the overladen vessel began to float.

A bitter pill for bedraggled Bligh to swallow is  
Michael Corleone's astute Rule Number One mantra  
To hold your friends, close but  
Your enemies closer.

**Mr Michaels Potboiler Poetry**

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