

# PIRATE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

BY SAMMIE MAYS

ARRR! 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS  
ABOARD THE BLACK GROUSE,  
NE'ER A CREATURE A STIRRIN', NOT EVEN THE SHIPS' MOUSE,  
BUCCANEER BOOTS TOSSED ON THE DECK WITHOUT CARE,  
HOPIN' OL WHITE BEARD WOULD SOON BE THERE.

THE CREW FAST ASLEEP IN THE FORECASTLE BELOW,  
THANKS TO THE CAPTAIN THE RHUM DID FLOW!  
DREAMIN' OF TREASURE A FILLIN' THEIR CHEST,  
FOR PLUNDERIN' AND PILLAGIN' THE PIRATES NEEDED THEIR REST.

DOWN IN ME QUARTERS I CHARTED A COURSE,  
FOR TOMORROW I SAIL, ME CREW AT FULL FORCE!  
BUT QUIET HAD SETTLED ON THE BLUE OCEAN DEEP  
ME EYELIDS GREW HEAVY, I TOO NEEDED ME SLEEP.

WHEN OUT ON THE BRINY A ROGUE WAVE DID CRASH  
PISTOL AND CUTLASS I PULLED FROM ME SASH!  
CLIMBIN' THE RIGGIN' ME GLASS TO ME EYE,  
SHIVER ME TIMBERS! OH, WHAT I DID SPY!

A RED SKY AT NIGHT BE A PIRATE'S DELIGHT,  
BUT THAR BE NO MATCH FOR THIS MAGICAL SIGHT;  
FOR ON THE HORIZON A SMALL SLOOP WITH WHITE SAILS  
PULLED OVER THE WAVES BY EIGHT BELUGA WHITE WHALES!  
THE CAPTAIN, A SAWED-OFF, ROUND PIRATE,  
HIS LEG A PEG STICK  
AVAST YE MATES! IT'S THE PIRATE ST. NICK!

FASTER AND FASTER THE BELUGAS THEY CAME,  
HE SHOUTED AND HAILED EACH ONE BY NAME:  
"BLOW BACCHUS! BLOW NEPTUNE! BLOW VENUS AND TRITON!  
BLOW JUNO! BLOW JUPITER, NEREID AND POSEIDON!"

THE WINDS THEY BLEW HARD AND THE WAVES THEY GREW HIGH,  
ASLOOP FULL O' BOOTY HE ALMOST CAPSIZED!  
HE COMMANDED THE BELUGAS TAKE TO THE SKY  
SHIVER ME TIMBERS, I DON'T BELIEVE ME OL' EYES!  
WITH A YO HO HO DOWN THE MAST HE SLID,  
A SLIPPERY POOP DECK, WHITE BEARD TOOK A LONG SKID!  
HE LAUGHED FROM HIS BELLY WHEN HE LAND ON HIS TUSH,  
HIS GREEN PARROT NAMED "HOLLY" HELPED HIM UP WITH A PUSH.  
HE WAS DRESSED LIKE A PIRATE FROM HEAD TO FIVE TOES,  
HIS PEG-LEG THUMP'D ON THE DECK 'ERE HE GO,  
A SWASHBUCKLER'S HAT WITH A WHITE OSTRICH PLUME,  
HIS SACK OVER STUFFED, HE NEEDED MORE ROOM!



HIS ONE EYE IT TWINKLED, HIS NOSE A RED PLUM,  
COULD IT BE THE OLD SALT HAS RAIDED ME RHUM?  
ROUND CHEEKS LIKE THE APPLE, AND DIMPLES SO MERRY,  
PERHAPS HE ATE RHUM CAKE FROM TORTUGA HE CARRY.

RED COAT OF A CAPTAIN, BLACK BOOT TO HIS KNEE  
THAR BE NO DOUBT HE BE FROM THE SEA!  
GOLD BUTTONS AND EARRINGS AND A PATCH ON ONE EYE,  
A HANDSOME DISPLAY OF A PIRATE AS I!

IN BOOTS HE PLACED CHOCOLATE, SILVER AND GEMS  
SPICE FROM THE ORIENT, CUPS WITH JEWELLED RIMS!  
BOTTLES OF RHUM FROM ISLAND SUGARCANE,  
GREAT GOLDEN TREASURES FROM THE GALLEONS OF SPAIN!

NE'ER SPEAKIN' A WORD, HE FINISHED HIS WORK  
SPUN 'ROUND ON HIS PEG AND THEN STOPPED WITH A JERK.  
HE GAZED UP AT THE MAST AND PEERED O'R THE BROADSIDE  
WHICH WAY WOULD HE GO? HOW WOULD HE DECIDE?

HE WALKED THE GANG PLANK AND FOR A MOMENT DID STAND,  
THEN REACHED UP FOR A ROPE WITH HIS TINY RIGHT HAND.  
HE SWUNG OUT TO HIS SLOOP, LANDING THERE AT THE WHEEL;  
A LAST GLIMPSE OF BLACK GROUSE HE MANAGED TO STEAL.

"SHOVE OFF BELUGAS 'FORE THE SCALLYWAGS WAKE,  
THAR BE MANY PORTS O' CALL 'FORE THE DAY BREAK!"  
AND HE CALLED O'R THE SEA AS HE SAILED OUT O' SIGHT,  
"FAIR WINDS TO YE ALL AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TONIGHT!"



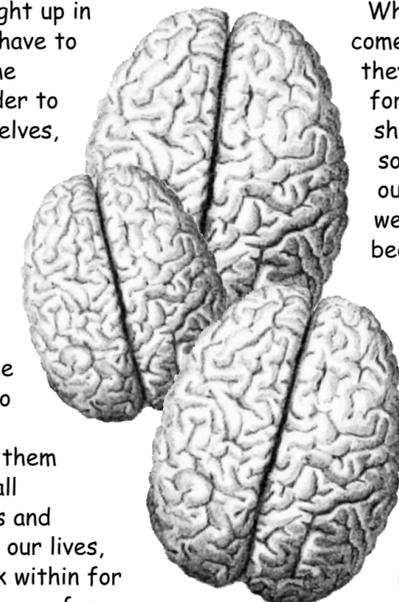
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# The Power of Disengagement Playing Mind Games

For better or worse, many people have been raised to believe that communicating in an honest and open way will not get them what they want. They have learned, instead, to play mind games or go on power trips in the service of their ego's agenda. People stuck in this outmoded and inefficient style of communication can be trying at best and downright destructive at worst. We may get caught up in thinking we have to play the same games in order to defend ourselves, but that will only lead us deeper into confusion and conflict. The best way to handle people like this is to be clear and honest with them. As with all relationships and situations in our lives, we must look within for both the source of our difficulties and the solution.

Reacting to the situation by getting upset will only entrench us more deeply in the undesirable relationship. Only by disengaging, becoming still, and going within can we begin to see what has hooked us into the mess in the first place. We will most likely find unprocessed emotions that we can finally fully feel and release into the stillness we find in meditation. The more we are able to do this, the less we will be bothered by the other person's dramas and the more we will be free to respond in a new way. In the light of our new awareness, the situation will untangle itself and we will slowly break free. Whenever people come into our lives, they have come for a reason, to show us something about ourselves that we have not been able to see. When unhealthy people try to hook us into their patterns with mind games and power trips, we can remind ourselves that we have something to learn here and that a part of us is calling out for healing. This takes the focus off the troubling individual and puts it back on us, giving us the opportunity to change the situation from the inside out.



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