

# The Captain's Plea

*Song inspired by an experience in a baari had by Veli Matti Kuosmanen  
and Veli Darwin Rasmussen*

(Verse 1)

In Riihimäki, my last month there  
Veli Kuosmanen and I, a meal we would share  
In a small baari, just a few folk around  
A man approached, without making a sound  
With a cigarette burning, he stood by our seat  
"Can I join you tonight?" he asked, bittersweet  
My first thought, I've regretted it through all these years:  
"Can't he sit anywhere else?" I fought back my fears.

(Chorus)

He said, "I'll put my whole life in your hands"  
A captain, so handsome, from Finland's own lands  
"No friends and no trust," a deep, lonely plea  
"But when I talk with you, I feel good, you see  
You have something real, something I can stand on  
Something to hold to, until the break of dawn."

(Verse 2)

He said he had sought us, through every long day  
But whenever we called, he was always away  
He'd read the Book of Mormon, the whole sacred text  
And now he just longed for what would come next

"Explain what it means," he asked, soft and so low  
"I know I am living badly, but the truth, I must know."  
His words were a challenge, a heart open wide  
A plea for direction, a place he could hide.

(Bridge)

Dinner ended too quickly, the hour grew late  
I was leaving for Helsinki, sealed by my fate  
Then on to America, my mission complete  
Leaving this captain, with his words bittersweet  
Did Veli Kuosmanen teach him, did he find the true way?  
I don't know his story, not even today.

(Outro)

But I've hoped through the years that he found the good news  
That he walked in the light and discarded the blues  
I pray he found peace, and the friends he could trust  
And I hope someday to hear the rest of his dust.

The Captain's Plea . . . . . The hope lives on.