

Ballad of Smallpox Gone

Old king plague is dead
The smallpox plague is dead
No more children dying hard
No more cripples living scarred
With the marks of the devil's kiss
We still may die of other things,
But we will not die of this.

Raise your glasses high
For all who will not die
To all the doctors, nurses too
And all the lab technicians who
Drove it into the ground
If the whole UN does nothing else,
It cut this terror down.

But scarce the headlines said
The ancient plague was dead
They were filled with weapons new
Toxic waste and Herpes too
And the AIDS scare coming on
Ten new plagues will take its place
But at least this one is gone.

*[let's skip the weird Malthusian verse
that would normally go here]*

Old king plague is dead
The smallpox plague is dead
No more children dying hard
No more cripples living scarred
With the marks of the devil's kiss
We still may die of other things,
But we will not die of this.
Oh no ---
We still may die of other things,
But we will not die of this!

Beautiful Tomorrow

I can hear tomorrow's voice call out and lure me,
In the silver dew, it rings out like a bell;
And the path that stretches beckoning before me
Makes me dizzy like a children's carousel.

[Chorus:]

O beautiful tomorrow, don't lead me into sorrow,
Be kind to me, tomorrow, don't lead me astray;
I'll chart a course to follow to bring me to tomorrow,
To beautiful tomorrow I start to make my way.

I can hear tomorrow call me on a journey
To a world of wondrous beauty, far away;
I can hear it ask me urgently and sternly:
For tomorrow's sake what have I done today?

[Chorus]

Now I'll strive to be both kinder and more honest
And to never leave a suffering friend behind;
I will toil each day to live up to my promise;
I will blaze a trail if there's no path to find.

[Chorus 2x; second time the last line goes slowly]

Brighter Than Today

Countless winter nights ago,
A woman shivered in the cold.
Cursed the skies, and wondered why
The gods invented pain.
Aching angry flesh and bone,
Bitterly she struck the stone
Till she saw the sudden spark
Of light and golden flame.

She showed the others, but they told her
She was not fit to control
The primal forces that the gods
Had cloaked in mystery;
But she would not be satisfied,
And though she trembled, she defied them,
Took her torch and raised it high
Set afire history -

Tomorrow can be brighter than to-day,
although the night is cold,
The stars may seem so very far a-way;
But courage, hope and reason burn,
In every mind, each lesson learned,
Shining light to guide our way
Make tomorrow brighter than to-day...
Oh... Brighter than to-day.

Ages long forgotten now,
We built the wheel and then the plough.
Tilled the earth and proved our worth,
Against the drought and snow.
Soon we had the time to fathom
Mountain peaks and tiny atoms,
Beating hearts electric sparks
So much more to know.

Tomorrow can be brighter than to-day,
although the night is cold,
The stars may seem so very far a-way;
But courage, hope and reason grow
With every passing season so we'll
Drive the darkness far away
Make tomorrow brighter than to-day...
Oh...
Oh... Brighter than to-day.

The universe may seem unfair;
The laws of nature may not care;
Storms and quakes, our own mistakes,
They nearly doused our flame.
But all these trials we've endured,
The lessons learned, diseases cured,
Against our herculean task
We've risen to proclaim:

Tomorrow can be brighter than to-day,
although the night is cold,
The stars may seem so very far a-way;
But courage, hope and reason bloom
Across the world and one day soon, we'll
Rise up to the stars and say:
Make tomorrow brighter than today;
Oh...
Oh...
Oh.....
Brighter than to-day.

Circle, Grow And Grow

Raise a song, and so commence
Circle, grow and grow.
in praise of all Benevolence!
Circle, grow and grow.
Once a cold and silent night
did the loveless stars pervade;
yet we here, of star-stuff made,
cast a circle of warmer Light!
Circle, circle, grow and grow.

So will we bring our families in,
Circle, grow and grow.
those whom Nature made our kin?
Circle, grow and grow.
Countless likenesses we find,
by our common blood bestowed.
What a debt of care is owed;
what a blessed tie that binds!
Circle, circle, grow and grow.

And will we bring our neighbors in,
Circle, grow and grow.
our expansion to begin?
Circle, grow and grow.
Bounty of the harvest sun,
shelter from all hazards dire,
share with each, as each require,
doing as you would be done.
Circle, circle, grow and grow.

And will we bring the stranger in,
Circle, grow and grow.
every state and speech and skin?
Circle, grow and grow.
Think upon the mystery:
how alike is Humankind!
Though manifold in face and mind,
conspecific sisters we!
Circle, circle, grow and grow.

And will we bring the far ones in,
Circle, grow and grow.
all who distant-born have been?
Circle, grow and grow.
For the hands you'll never hold,
for the names you'll never learn,
for all far-off hearts that yearn,
let compassion boundless roll!
Circle, circle, grow and grow.

And will we bring all creatures in,
Circle, grow and grow.
feather, fur, or silicon?
Circle, grow and grow.
Though their unseen thought beguile —
strange the substrate they employ —
all who suffer or enjoy
are brother soul, in body wild.
Circle, circle, grow and grow.

And will we bring the future in?
Circle, grow and grow.
All of time is ours to win!
Circle, grow and grow.
Will our children rise in power?
overwhelm the starry deep?
Lights unborn, for you we keep
will and hope, though dark the hour.
Circle, circle, grow and grow.

Fire In The Sky

Prometheus, they say,
Brought God's fire down to Man,
And we've caught it, tamed, it, trained it
Since our history began.
Now we're going back to Heaven,
Just to look him in the eye -
There's a thunder 'cross the land,
And a fire in the sky.

Gagarin was the first,
Back in 1961
When, like Icarus, undaunted,
He climbed to reach the sun.
And he knew he might not make it,
For it's never hard to die,
But he lifted off the pad
And rode a fire in the sky.

Yet a higher goal was calling,
And we vowed to reach it soon,
And we gave ourselves a decade
To put fire on the moon.
And Apollo told the world,
We can do it if we try -
And there was *one small step*
And a fire in the sky.

Then two decades from Gagarin,
Twenty years to the day,
Came a shuttle named Columbia
To open up the way.
And they said she's just a truck,
But she's a truck that's aiming high,
See her big jets burning,
See her fire in the sky.

Yet the gods do not give lightly
Of the powers the have made,
And with Challenger and seven,
Once again the price is paid.
Though a nation watched falling,
Yet a world could only cry
As they passed from us to glory,
Riding fire in the sky.

Now the rest is up to us:
There's a future to be won!
We must turn our faces outward,
We will do what must be done.
For no cradle lasts forever,
Every bird must learn to fly,
And we're going to the stars,
See our fire in the sky.

Yes, we're going to the stars,
See our fire in the sky!

Georgian Song

I will bury the seed of a grape in the warmth of the garden
And I'll suck at the vine and pluck at the clusters of pearls;
To my friends, I will open my heart and I'll beg of their pardon -
For why else am I destined to dwell in this undying world?

Come and gather, my comrades, and join in the banquet before you,
Tell me straight to my face what you see when my robe is unfurled;
And my Father in Heaven, forgive me my sins, I implore you -
For why else am I destined to dwell in this undying world?

All in crimson my darling will dance for me, singing and sighing,
All my colorless rags will collapse at her feet as she twirls;
I will listen, enchanted, and know that of love I am dying -
For why else am I destined to dwell in this undying world?

So when sunset is curled into every corner and found me,
I'll see twisting and tangling, over and over, in swirls
Blue oxen, white eagles, and flounders of gold all around me -
For why else am I destined to dwell in this undying world?

Blue oxen, white eagles, and flounders of gold all around me...
For why else am I destined to dwell in this undying world?

Good Riddance

Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road
Time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go
So make the best of this test, and don't ask why
It's not a question, but a lesson learned in time

It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right
I hope you had the time of your life.

So take the photographs and still frames in your mind
Hang it on a shelf in good health and good time
Tattoos of memories, and dead skin on trial
For what it's worth, it was worth all the while

It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right
I hope you had the time of your life

[instrumental bit!! do some cool solos!!]

It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right
I hope you had the time of your life.
It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right
I hope you had the time of your life.

Hallelujah

Now I've heard there was a secret chord
That David played, and it pleased the Lord
But you don't really care for music, do ya?
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
The baffled king composing Hallelujah

[Chorus:]

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Your faith was strong but you needed proof
You saw her bathing on the roof
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew ya
She tied you to a kitchen chair
She broke your throne, and she cut your hair
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah

[Chorus]

Well baby, I've been here before
I know this room, I've walked this floor
I used to live alone before I knew you
And I've seen your flag on the marble arch
Love is not a victory march
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah

[Chorus]

There was a time you let me know
What's really going on below
But now you never show it to me, do you?
And remember when I moved in you
The holy dove was moving too
And every breath we drew was Hallelujah

[Chorus]

Well maybe there's a God above
But all I've ever learned from love
Was how to shoot at someone who outdrew you
And it's not a cry that you hear at night
It's not somebody who's seen the light
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah

*[Chorus 3x at least, with improvised harmonies
and descants and vocal riffs etc.]*

Hymn of Breaking Strain

The careful text-books measure
(Let all who build beware!)
The load, the shock, the pressure
Material can bear.
So, when the buckled girder
Lets down the grinding span,
'The blame of loss, or murder,
Is laid upon the man.
Not on the steel - the Man!

But in our daily dealing
With stone and steel, we find
The Gods have no such feeling
Of justice toward mankind.
To no set gauge they make us—
For no laid course prepare—
In time they overtake us
With loads we cannot bear:
Too merciless to bear.

The prudent text-books give it
In tables at the end
'The stress that shears a rivet
Or makes a tie-bar bend—
'What traffic wrecks macadam—
What concrete should endure—
but we, poor Sons of Adam
Have no such literature,
To warn us or make sure!

We hold all Earth to plunder—
All Time and Space as well—
Too wonder-stale to wonder
At each new miracle;
Till, in the mid-illusion
Of Godhead 'neath our hand,
Falls multiple confusion
On all we did or planned—
The mighty works we planned.

We only of Creation
(How much luckier the bridge and rail!)
Abide the twin damnation—
To fail and know we fail.
Yet we - by which sole token
We know we once were Gods—
Take shame in being broken
However great the odds—
The burden of the Odds.

Oh, veiled and secret Power
Whose paths we seek in vain,
Be with us in our hour
Of overthrow and pain;
That we - by which sure token
We know Thy ways are true—
In spite of being broken -
Or because of being broken -
May rise and build anew;
Stand up and build anew!

I'm Yours

Well, you done done me and you bet I felt it
I tried to be chill, but you're so hot that I melted
I fell right through the cracks
And now I'm trying to get back
Before the cool done run out I'll be giving it my bestest
And nothing's gonna stop me but divine intervention
I reckon it's again my turn
To win some or learn some

But I won't hesitate no more, no more
It cannot wait, I'm yours

Well, open up your mind and see like me
Open up your plans and, damn, you're free
And look into your heart, and you'll find
Love, love, love, love
Listen to the music of the moment, people dance and sing
We're just one big family
And it's our godforsaken right to be
Loved, loved, loved, loved, loved...

So I won't hesitate no more, no more
It cannot wait, I'm sure
There's no need to complicate, our time is short
This is our fate, I'm yours

A-do you, do, do, do you, but do you, do you, do, do,
but do you want to come on?
Scooch on over closer, dear
And I will nibble your ear

I've been spending way too long checking my tongue in
the mirror
And bending over backwards just to try to see it clearer
But my breath fogged up the glass
And so I drew a new face and I laughed
I guess what I've been saying is there ain't no better
reason
To rid yourself of vanities and just go with the seasons
It's what we aim to do
Our name is our virtue

But I won't hesitate no more, no more
It cannot wait, I'm yours

Well, open up your mind and see like me (I won't
hesitate)
Open up your plans and, damn, you're free (No more,
no more)
And look into your heart, and you'll find that (It cannot
wait)
The sky is yours (I'm sure there's no)
So please don't, please don't, please don't (No need,
oh, now now)
There's no need to complicate (For the reggae, our
time)
'Cause our time is short (Is short, this)
This oh, this oh, this is our fate (Is our fate)
I'm yours....

Northwest Passage

[Chorus]
Ah, for just one time
I would take the Northwest Passage
To find the hand of Franklin
Reaching for the Beaufort Sea
Tracing one warm line
Through a land so wild and savage
And make a Northwest Passage to the sea

Westward from the Davis Strait
'Tis there 'twas said to lie
The sea route to the Orient
For which so many died
Seeking gold and glory,
Leaving weathered, broken bones
And a long-forgotten lonely cairn of stones

[Chorus]

Three centuries thereafter
I take passage overland
In the footsteps of brave Kelso
Where his "sea of flowers" began
Watching cities rise before me
Then behind me sink again
This tardiest explorer
Driving hard across the plain

[Chorus]

And through the night, behind the wheel
The mileage clicking west
I think upon Mackenzie,
David Thompson and the rest
Who cracked the mountain ramparts
And did show a path for me
To race the roaring Fraser to the sea

[Chorus]

How then am I so different
From the first men through this way?
Like them, I left a settled life
I threw it all away
To seek a Northwest Passage
At the call of many men
To find there but the road back home again

[Chorus]

Sons And Daughters

[Chorus:]

When we arrive, sons & daughters,
We'll make our homes on the water
We'll build our walls aluminum
We'll fill our mouths with cinnamon now

These currents pull us 'cross the border
Steady your boats, arms to shoulder
'Till tides will pull our hull aground
Making this cold harbour now home

Take up your arms, sons and daughters
We will arise from the bunkers
By land, by sea, by dirigible
We'll leave our tracks untraceable now

[Chorus 2x, this time it's a round!]

Hear all the bombs fade away
Hear all the bombs fade away
Hear all the bombs fade away
etc.

Sunrise, Sunset

Is this the little girl I carried?
Is this the little boy at play?
I don't remember growing older
When did they?

When did she get to be a beauty?
When did he grow to be so tall?
Wasn't it yesterday
When they were small?

[Chorus:]

Sunrise, sunset
Sunrise, sunset
Swiftly flow the days;
Seedlings turn overnight to sunflowers
Blossoming even as we gaze.
Sunrise, sunset
Sunrise, sunset
Swiftly fly the years
One season following another
Laden with happiness and tears.

What words of wisdom can I give them?
How can I help to ease their way?
Now they must learn from one another
Day by day
They look so natural together
Just like two newlyweds should be
Is there a canopy in store for me?

[Chorus]

Now is the little boy a bridegroom,
Now is the little girl a bride;
Under the canopy I see them, side by side.
Place the gold ring upon her finger,
Drink the sweet wine and break the glass -
Soon the full circle will have come to pass.

[Chorus]

This Year

A C#m D A
A E D A
A E
I broke free on a saturday morning.

D A
I put the pedal to the floor.
A E
headed north on mills avenue,
D A
and listened to the engine roar.

A C#m D A
A E D A
A E
my broken house behind me and good things ahead,
D A
a girl named cathy wants a little of my time.
A E
six cylinders underneath the hood crashing and kicking
D A
ahhh listen to the engine whine.

[Chorus:]

A Esus4 D A
I am going to make it through this year if it kills me.
A Esus4 D A
I am going to make it through this year if it kills me.

I played video games in a drunken haze
I was seventeen years young
hurt my knuckles punching the machines
the taste of scotch rich on my tongue.

and then cathy showed up and we hung out.
trading swigs from the bottle all bitter and clean
locking eyes, holding hands,
twin high maintenance machines.

[Chorus]

F#m A
I drove home in the california dusk.
D A
I could feel the alcohol inside of me hum.
F#m A
picture the look on my stepfather's face,
D E
ready for the bad things to come.

I downshifted as I pulled into the driveway.
the motor screaming out stuck in second gear.
the scene ends badly as you might imagine,
in a cavalcade of anger and fear.

A C#m D E
there will be feasting and dancing in jerusalem next year!

[Chorus]

Uplift

Hands chip the flint, light the fire, skin the kill
Feet move the tribe track the herd with a will
Human-kind struggles, on the edge of history
Time to settle down, time to grow, time to breed..

Plow tills the soil, plants the seed, pray for rain
Scythe reaps the wheat, to the mill, to grind the grain
Towns.. and.. cities spread to empire over - night
Hands keep building as we chant the ancient rite...

Coal heats the steam, push the piston, turns the wheel
Cogs spin the wool, drives the horses made of steel
Lightning harnessed does our will and lights the dark
Keep rising higher, set our goal, hit the mark...

Crawl.. out.. of... the mud.
On... go... ing... but slow.
For the path... that is easy
Ain't the one... that... makes us grow

Light push the sails, read the data, cities glow
Hands type the keys, tap the screen, out we go!
Our voices carry round the world and into space
Send us out to colonize another place.

Tools, make the tools, light fire, plant the grain
Feet, track the herd. Build a world. Begin again...

Viva la Vida

I used to rule the world
Seas would rise when I gave the word
Now in the morning, I sleep alone
Sweep the streets I used to own

I used to roll the dice
Feel the fear in my enemy's eyes
Listen as the crowd would sing
Now the old King is dead, long live the King
One minute I held the key
Next the walls were closed on me
And I discovered that my castles stand
Upon pillars of salt and pillars of sand

I hear Jerusalem bells are ringing
Roman Cavalry choirs are singing
Be my mirror, my sword, and shield
My missionaries in a foreign field
For some reason I can't explain
Once you'd gone, there was never
Never an honest word
And that was when I ruled the world

It was the wicked and wild wind
Blew down the doors to let me in
Shattered windows and the sound of drums
People couldn't believe what I'd become
Revolutionaries wait
For my head on a silver plate
Just a puppet on a lonely string
Aw, who would ever want to be king?

I hear Jerusalem bells are ringing
Roman Cavalry choirs are singing
Be my mirror, my sword, and shield
My missionaries in a foreign field
For some reason I can't explain
I know Saint Peter won't call my name
Never an honest word
But that was when I ruled the world

[brief instrumental bit]

Oh-oh-woah-oh,
Oh-oh-woah-oh,
Oh-oh-woah-oh,
Oh-oh-woah-oh

[more oh-oh-woahs happen during the following chorus]

I hear Jerusalem bells are ringing
Roman Cavalry choirs are singing
Be my mirror, my sword, and shield
My missionaries in a foreign field
For some reason I can't explain
I know Saint Peter won't call my name
Never an honest word
But that was when I ruled the world

Wagon Wheel

Heading down south to the land of the pines
I'm thumbing my way into North Carolina
Staring up the road and pray to God I see headlights
I made it down the coast in seventeen hours
Picking me a bouquet of dogwood flowers
And I'm a-hopin' for Raleigh, I can see my baby tonight

[Chorus:]

So rock me mamma like a wagon wheel
Rock me mamma any way you feel
Hey mamma rock me
Rock me mamma like the wind and the rain
Rock me mamma like a south bound train
Hey mamma rock me

Running from the cold up in New England
I was born to be a fiddler in an old time string band
My baby plays a guitar, I pick a banjo now
Oh, north country winters keep a-getting me down
Lost my money playing poker so I had to leave town
But I ain't turning back to living that old life no more

[Chorus]

Walkin' to the south out of Roanoke
I caught a trucker out of Philly had a nice long toke
But he's a-heading west from the Cumberland gap
To Johnson City, Tennessee
I gotta get a move on before the sun
I hear my baby calling my name and I know that she's
the only one
And if I die in Raleigh at least I will die free

[Chorus 2x]