

YOUR PARADE

I miss the darkness like you've been
Steeled diesel dust and whispering
Roses in ribbons in flying eyes
In darkened stars with silenced lies.

It's unbelievable time that waits a far
With silent loyalty that's all you are
Must be somewhere just a shout away
You don't need me but I miss anyway.

You've been one of the strongest
Crazy enough to be sane
You can use your anger
For your personal gain
That was never your intention
You wear no bohemian rags
You're just rolling into town in your own parade
And the lines of laundry look like flags.

I miss the darkness like I've seen
In the shades of the blues and conquering
Passionate outbursts in rhyming sounds
Searching for quality in diverse amounts.

You've been one of the strongest
Crazy enough to be sane
You can use your anger
For your personal gain
That was never your intention
You wear no bohemian rags
You're just rolling into town in your own parade
And the lines of laundry look like flags.

It's a different climate to forsake and betray
You're guilty of treason no matter what you say
You're fading further for your true will
You don't need me but I miss anyway.

ELEGY

There were times we were talking
I don't remember the dates
We had no idea what was written on the slates
But we duly marked them
Like you would do with graves
With the indifference you often find among
the slaves.

We acted like the masters
Drawing plans in the sand
With a blind conviction dealing contraband
We dressed up in uniforms
We were meant to be seen
An unfortunate answer to the loyalties in
between.

We marvelled at abandonment
Conscious about what it meant
Awareness brought us fortunes in the end
We erected it in cement
The mausoleum for the confident
An elegy for every lost friend.

We made our way then
Through the sleet and the snow
Descended like angels to the jungles below
We rose like the Phoenix
From the furnaces of fire
And left nothing but ruins
When situations got dire.

We marvelled at abandonment
Conscious about what it meant
Awareness brought us fortunes in the end
We erected it in cement
The mausoleum for the confident
An elegy for every lost friend.

There were times we were talking
I don't remember the dates
We had no idea what was written on the slates.

CITIES OF MORPHINE

Well, he told you 'bout the cities of morphine
He told you there was no pain there
He told you to pack up you bags 'n
Leave the town,
Leave the town for the new frontier.

So you moved to another tropic
I guess you followed some other star
You sent a postcard from heaven:
"C'mon here,
C'mon here, it's not that far".

He stayed home dreamin' 'bout religion
The one he thought that he could start
Equaled the losses with the blessings
Trying to laugh,
Trying to laugh beside the coffin cart.

He lectured 'bout ignoring the pressure
He always said that the choice was free
He said he gave you all that you needed
Even the tools,
The very tools to succeed.

You said you knew he was out for more
This time you were right
You said you always knew for sure
That someday he just might
Wake up by your side
Well, if you ever got that blind
He'd use you for his sight
Two of a kind.

I told you
There was no pain there
And I lost you
To the lost frontier

I've got to pack my bags
I've got to pack my bags
I've got to pack my bags
And face you
There.

STRANGE RELIEF

He was an old man
On his last trip to Budapest
At last he felt like home
He was no longer a guest
He knew the best cafes
Often dined in Bagolyvar
Loneliness didn't bother him
'Cause friends were never far.

He felt Jewish in a synagogue
He was a Catholic when he confessed
He was an Orthodox at heart
He was so strangely blessed
He even liked some bits of Luther
But thought that Calvin was a jerk
And he still believed in Marx
But he was through with all the work.

She was a young girl
On her first trip to Prague
She'd been to Hague
And seen some justice after dark
She knew that the city
Was like a museum of the Jews
But not the way the Nazis planned it
Yeah, she could have been the muse.

She knew about the genocide
In fact, she barely escaped
She'd seen the loss of dignity
And people getting raped
She read the names on the Pinka's walls
With a strange relief
Muslim, Jew, the pain's the same
She shared the belief.

On a journey upstream
They saw the flipside of the dream
Where greed's the strongest dope
In prosperity and hope
The whole country is for sale
The Union can't fail
In a medieval citadel
They understood why kingdoms fell.

All lyrics by: Pekka R. Alava ©

LONG DANCES

Ripped off for cunning offers
And softly spoken vows
That turn to broken promises
By the light of dawn
Before the judgement falls
To put things right
Please have mercy on this child tonight

Suspicious for inexperience
Or for having seen too much
You rush down blind alleys
Scared of the slightest touch
Before the truth comes out
And everything's in different light
Please have mercy on this child tonight

And I watched you dance
By that dividing ditch
That was long before
They tore down the bridge
Now you limp away
But still close to the edge
Wish I could save you
But I'm just another wretch

These long dances,
When at last I'll talk to you
It won't matter anymore
We take our chances
And maybe lose more than we gain
And end up with the closing of the door

And here we go again.

Determined for the unknown purpose
Or for every-corner-dreams
You work hard until you realize
That it's not what it seems
When the expectations are spoken
And it's time for the fight
Please have mercy on this child tonight

And I sang a song
To remember the dead
And to be with the dying
After all's been said
The sense of being needed
Is the only thing here
To overcome the numbers
To conquer this fear

These long dances,
When at last I'll talk to you
It won't matter anymore
We take our chances
And maybe lose more than we gain
And end up with the closing of the door

And here we go again

FAKE LIBERTY BELLS

Me and J were still young men
When we drank from the clear water wells
Out in the open among the monuments
Where Manitou still dwells
I guess we felt like part of it
Yet I guess we felt estranged
I guess that was the Great Escape
We planned in our cells.

Sometimes I still feel like
The gap was just too wide
Here in these dimming lights
I'm sure that God has died
And I know that I love you
But I know that's not enough
I know now there's no Great Escape
But who's to tell who lied.

We've seen these people
And how they learn their trade
How they make decisions about who to join
And how the game is played.
We've seen the origins
Of how to begin to justify
Ruling by sheer loudness
While the options on the market multiply.

I never wanted to be the one
Who's drinking at the bar
Flashing my disappointed
Like a distant fading star
No, I'll take you across the storm of tides
I'll love you against the wind
There's time to get the story told
And it won't be that far.

We've seen these people
And how they learn their trade
How they make decisions about who to join
And how the game is played.
We've seen the origins
Of how to begin to justify
Ruling by sheer loudness
While the options on the market multiply.

Me and J were once young men
But we're still digging those clear water wells
We're not gambling with a great fortune
We still don't care what sells
And we still feel like part of it
Yet I guess we're still estranged
But darling get ready to occupy
Those fake Liberty Bells.

NO MORE REVOLUTIONS

Drummers fill the basements like beatniks used to do
But there's no more revolutions like it was for me and you
In the college town cafes they still dream of bigger things
Nothing much is different, the cash machine still rings

It's for the glory of the winners
And the relics of the saints
When the pretty boy hits the stage
Someone always faints
Some go home to darkness
And hide their violent rage
And some arrive to parenthood
At a later age

A defiant soul survivor shielded by a crest
Standing at the crossroads, valedictory at best
In the sanctuaries of knowledge they're sharpening their tools
Desperate for the wisdom wasted on fools

It's the morality of the jackal
The privilege of the prey
And millions dance with the stars
In the mindless field of play
The blue light still flickers
In the coldness of the room
The dying nation holds its breath
In the remains of the baby boom

But I'm just sitting here with children on my chest
Like this is all that matters
Sane and solid while it scatters
Yet feeling like a wanted guest

So I'm just sitting here lines of future on my brow
A house of cards in tempest weather
An unholy temple but we're together
And just worry about the now

Drummers fill the basements like beatniks used to do
But there's no more revolutions like it was for me and you.

FAR FROM ARMAGEDDON

Everyone says there's nothing there
You smile like you know about a treasure
It's easy to trust you when you dare
To go beyond all measure

In the swamp of dreams
You're at ease
With ordinary walk of life
But by far
Your guiding star
Is the furthest from the strife

And you go right through
Wish I could see like you
With every picture that you improve
Like you've got nothing to prove

And I've never been
As far from Armageddon
As I've been with you.

Everyone points a way to choose
But your eyes have caught a vision
You jump right off and wet your shoes
You don't mind you're on a mission

In the swamp of dreams
You climb the trees
You're reaching for a different viewpoint
Sometimes you find
The right kind
Like you're walking the land that you anoint

And you go right through
Wish I could see like you
With every picture that you improve
Like you've got nothing to prove

And I've never been
As far from Armageddon
As I've been with you.

Do you see any shadows that you long to meet?
Are you immune to the fright?
If There's a voice in the dark, will you let it speak,
Until its drawn to the light?
Can you conquer the hopelessness on plain sight?
I just think that you might.

And I've never been
As far from Armageddon
As I've been with you.