



**SUBVERT  
THE  
DOMINANT  
PARADIGM**

**IMAGINE**

**VERSUS**

**FREE DUMB**

**BY ATTILA THE POET**

## Imagine vs Free Dumb

"Every time we witness an injustice and do not act, we train our character to be passive in its presence and thereby eventually lose all ability to defend ourselves and those we love. In a modern economy it is impossible to seal oneself off from injustice." ~Julian Assange

**Imagine what our country and what our planet could have become today if we did truly seek to become a more peaceful and just society.** That would necessitate a fundamental shift in how society actually acts towards each other. And having a government and population that actually wants to put the well-being of people first and foremost. And would require common decency and an understanding that we cannot continue to harm people, or harm the environment, no matter how much money it makes. It's not morality that is lacking, it is an ethical backbone.

**Free Dumb or Freedom?** Which do we have? How did we get to this point where we act in a self-destructive manner that harms people and planet? Something has to change. Might help if leaders spoke in the language of peace and understanding and addressed injustices. Free Dumb is the ability to simultaneously believe that you and your country are exceptional; while intentionally ignoring the harm caused to people and planet as it carries out predatory unjust social policies that include wars and environmental damage, eventually harming the country itself.

**This collection of songs were written over the last 20 years. The song lyrics are adapted here into poem form.**

These songs were written after a lifetime of seeing wars and injustices continue. My view is that the ruling class's quest for obscene profit is the main source of much of the institutional injustice and harm that is inflicted on people and planet. Something has to change. What kind of world are we leaving to future generations? If there is a chance to change the world for the better, why wouldn't we try?

"Simply put, the wealthy few invest heavily in shaping laws that strive to place unlimited private property and corporate expansion above and beyond all else, including the lives of people, the health of communities, protections of what we own in common, the capacity of society to function as a democracy, and the stability of the living biosphere itself." Ralph Nader (*Breaking Through Power*, 2016)

Free Dumb by Attila Gyenis

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## IMAGINE

BY JOHN LENNON AND YOKO ONO

IMAGINE THERE'S NO HEAVEN  
IT'S EASY IF YOU TRY  
NO HELL BELOW US  
ABOVE US ONLY SKY

IMAGINE ALL THE PEOPLE  
LIVING FOR TODAY

IMAGINE THERE'S NO COUNTRIES  
IT ISN'T HARD TO DO  
NOTHING TO KILL OR DIE FOR  
AND NO RELIGION TOO

IMAGINE ALL THE PEOPLE  
LIVING LIFE IN PEACE

YOU MAY SAY I'M A DREAMER  
BUT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE  
I HOPE SOMEDAY YOU'LL JOIN US  
AND THE WORLD WILL BE AS ONE

IMAGINE NO POSSESSIONS  
I WONDER IF YOU CAN  
NO NEED FOR GREED OR HUNGER  
A BROTHERHOOD OF MAN

IMAGINE ALL THE PEOPLE  
SHARING ALL THE WORLD

YOU MAY SAY I'M A DREAMER  
BUT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE  
I HOPE SOMEDAY YOU'LL JOIN US  
AND THE WORLD WILL LIVE AS ONE



## Free Dumb

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## All Grown Up (I Tried My Best)

When you look at the world, what do you see  
Is it beauty and love, people living free  
Is this a place where you'd like to be?  
And keep things the same for eternity

Or do you notice there are serious wrongs  
And they have been going on, much much too long  
And even though these things don't happen to you  
You feel the need for something to do

I tried the best, the best that I can  
I found that I failed, again and again  
Is there an answer, is there a way  
Is there something that helps, something I can say

People will point and laugh when you're falling down  
But they'll bow down to you if you wear a crown  
They blame the poor man as the rich steal it away  
Does it make any sense to you when people act that way

I can't say I tried with all of my might  
To take some of the wrongs and make some of them right  
Though it kept me from sleeping at night in my bed  
The most I would do were just thoughts in my head

When I was young I thought there was a way  
To take all of the wrongs and make them all okay  
I thought that was something we all wanted too  
But some who you trust are lying to you

I tried the best, the best that I can  
I found that I failed, again and again  
Is there an answer, is there a way  
Is there something that helps, something I can say

Or will everything we have just fade away.



## Sheer Genius

---

Who is the genius, and who is the dummy  
and can you tell me who is running the country

Who is the genius, who is the fool  
who is allowing these people to rule

There are screams in the air  
that things are not fair  
and people scared if things go on  
it's more than we can bear

It seems that we should understand  
you can't fix things by war  
if the problem that has caused it  
is the one thing we ignore

We say we want answers  
but don't ask for peace  
when our pocket's full of dollar bills  
it puts our mind at ease

We all go along  
worse than sheep to a slaughter  
trading blood for more money  
as we turn on our brother

The incompetence of leaders  
continues unchallenged  
as nothing gets reported  
that might upset the balance

There is a solution  
in front of your eyes  
start asking some questions  
stop believing the lies

You need to stand up for others  
and fight for your right  
and act with your courage  
and not with your might

You need to think with your brain  
and feel with your heart  
search for the truth  
and that is a start

Who is the genius, and who is the dummy  
and can you tell me who is running the country

Who is the genius, who is the fool  
who is allowing, these people to rule.



## Destiny's Child

---

She thought it was her destiny  
To live her life as she had dreamed  
By fourteen knew that she would be  
A movie star, a beauty queen

At seventeen she learned the way  
How love and sex both sting with pain  
Knew that something had to change  
But worried that they'd stay the same

Destiny's Child

She wants her dreams to come true

Wants all the same thing as you

Wants happiness if she can

Destiny's Child will arrive

At eighteen moved away for school  
It's when she vowed to be no one's fool  
She had more lovers than she cared to know  
It's when she started acting cruel

By twenty one she had gotten bored  
Love and hate had merged into one  
And even though she tried real hard  
She found that she could blame no one

At twenty two she found a man  
Loved him, then she had a plan  
To be married by twenty three  
Him and Her, Baby, make three

At twenty four she learned again  
That you cannot depend on man  
It was hard to make the break  
But when she did, she dreamed again

At twenty nine she figured out  
That love is what it's all about  
Love yourself, love one another  
Treat everyone like sister/brother

At thirty she was on her way  
Living her dream every day  
At forty she kept going strong  
It seemed that she could do no wrong

What she learned about her dreams  
Is that dreaming is important  
That is where desires live  
That sometimes lie dormant

And what she learned about destiny  
Is it wasn't set in stone  
To live your life with love, not fear  
Is up to you alone

Destiny's Child

She wants her dreams to come true

Wants all the same thing as you

Wants happiness if she can

...Destiny's Child has arrived.



## Close Your Eyes

---

If you see a dog that's lost  
that wanders by on streets forgotten  
homeless, aimless, thirsty, hungry  
but too dumb to go a knocking

Close your eyes

And if there's a baby hungry  
and the parent's always angry  
hits the child and takes a drink  
the baby's crying, the diaper stinks

Close your eyes

In the woods you hear a tree  
that has been cut and now is falling  
Planet Earth and trees are crying  
but it's not your name its calling

Close your eyes

You build a gun and make some money  
Cigarettes, you know what's funny  
when you see the damage done  
you still say that you hurt no one

Close your eyes

Drill for oil in the Arctic  
a little spill, don't need to hide it  
wash on shore, sometimes for miles  
see the dead birds make small piles

Close your eyes

Go to war, take drastic measures  
must protect our precious treasures  
send our children, fill the need  
and though you know that some will bleed

Close your eyes

Build a bomb, we need protection  
sell it off, there's no connection  
build another, sell that too  
and if it were to drop on you

Close your eyes

Close your eyes.



## Don't Trust the Government

---

### Don't trust the government

They lie and cheat to gain control  
 Power and corruption is their goal  
 Everybody stand in line  
 Smile while they rob us blind  
*Don't you believe them*

### Don't trust the government

They send our troops to die for oil  
 Call it defending American soil  
 Doesn't matter what they say  
 They're all liars anyway  
*Don't you believe them*

### Don't trust the government

Around the world we flex our might  
 Never asking if it's right  
 Doesn't matter who's in control  
 They're all crooks, we all know  
*Don't you believe them*

### Don't trust the government

Don't trust your high school teacher  
 Don't trust your Sunday preacher  
 Don't trust the newspaper  
   Or credit cards where you pay later  
 Don't trust the television  
   Don't trust its fearful mission  
 Don't trust no corporation  
   Don't trust the fast food nation  
 Don't trust no GMO  
   Don't trust your HMO  
 Don't trust talk radio  
   They only think they know  
 Don't trust the FDA  
   DOD or DEA  
 Don't trust the NSA  
   FBI or CIA

Don't trust Republicans

Don't trust the Democrats

Don't trust your Congressman

Don't trust your Senator

Don't trust your President

### Don't trust the government

We hold these truths to be self evident that all men  
 are created equal.

That they are endowed by their creator, with certain  
 unalienable rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of  
 Happiness.

That to secure these rights, governments are formed,  
 but whenever any form of government becomes de-  
 structive, it is the Right of the People, it is their Duty  
 To throw off such government.

Don't trust the government

Don't trust the government

Don't trust the government

Don't trust the government

Just ask an Indian!

Question Everything!



(by Attila Gyenis and Ted McNamee)

## Heaven on Earth

---

If you want to get to the promised land?  
Just give out, sometimes, a helping hand  
If you want to get to sleep at night?  
Just start doing what you know is right

Temptation Temptation, led them astray  
They had thought they had found an easier way  
They were caught in the sun that burned holes in their eyes  
And the horses they rode were all riddled with lies

Lies are not truer if they're shouted  
Truth is the Truth no doubt about it  
Lead me to a better path,  
better than the one I had  
I don't need god or religion  
I just need a better vision

Frustration Frustration, carried the day  
They were stuck in the past, but living today  
They lacked truth and a vision, but had money to burn  
And messengers sent, would not ever return

Temptation Temptation, led them astray  
But they realized too late, that they had lost their way  
They were angrier, angrier, angrier still  
They looked not for an answer, but for something to kill

Lies are not truer if they're shouted  
Truth is the Truth no doubt about it  
Lead me to a better path,  
better than the one I had  
I don't need god or religion  
I just need a better vision



## How Much Longer

---

How much longer will it take?  
Before we get it right  
With all the things we say and do  
How can we sleep at night

The lies, the cries, the poor, the war  
It's simple to ignore  
You can wait, but it'll be too late  
When they come kick down your door

How much longer will it be?  
Till you open up your eyes  
It's beyond ridiculous  
If you're still fooled by their lies

The mistake is thinking that they care  
And somehow they will change  
Now hope's become the opium  
As we keep drinking koolade.

Round and round and round and round  
And round and round we go  
And in the end, don't act surprised  
Cause everybody knows

How much longer will you wait?  
You're a witness to a crime  
Silence is complicity  
And we're running out of time

If you think there's something wrong  
You need to make a stand  
It's people who are suffering  
And they sure could use a hand

How much longer can this go on?  
It's been going on too long  
It's intentional this misery  
We all know right from wrong

We all know right from wrong.





## Just Say No to Monsanto

---

There's a dirty little secret that you may not know

It's hidden in your food, It's called GMO

What are you going to do the save your food

*Just say NO to Monsanto*

What can you do help the earth

*Just say NO to Monsanto*

How do you keep your baby safe

*Just say NO to Monsanto*

What can you do against corporate greed

*Just say NO to Monsanto*

What are you going to say to your congressmen

*Just say NO to Monsanto*

What are you going to say to Monsanto

*Just say NO to Monsanto*

**Just say NO to Monsanto.**



## King and Queen of Fools

---

You will be never be the one  
You will never be the way  
You're full of broken promises  
Push hate and fear each day

Though your followers still listen  
And think that you're on top  
Some people are now waking up  
To work to make you stop

You will never be the one  
You will never be the way  
Your tarnished gold won't save you  
No matter who you pay

Your enemy is kindness  
And compassion is the tool  
That will shine the light to show  
You're an ordinary fool

You think if you divide the world  
Into us and them  
That people will not realize  
You're a fox guarding the hen

You're a selfish greedy person  
You will never be the way  
You're a Grinch who has never learned  
That kindness is the way

You think money is so wonderful  
As you keep dropping the bomb  
You must have missed the memo  
'Do no harm'

You will be never be the one  
You will never be the way  
And just like all the other fools  
One day you'll fade away



## The Painted Bird

---

If there's a way, that I could invent myself  
who would I be, where would I go

If there's a way, that I could be different  
could I be happy, who would I know

Would I be a rich man living in Cleveland  
or lying on a beach with my snow white tan

Or living out in Idaho, doing what I don't know  
or friends with Joe DiMaggio, and Marilyn Monroe

Would I be the King of France,  
or a big time winner, I'll take a chance

Would I be a Kennedy or friends with old Neal Cassady  
Or live down in a railroad car drinking at the corner bar

Would I be a poor man living down in Mexico  
And think of places I have been and where I'd like to go

Would I be a little boy, full of ice cream, full of joy  
Or would I be a wise old man, happy with my life

I took a walk,  
and found that I'm about to...

...leap into a dream  
can't fall off a mountain  
it's never as it seems  
drink from the fountain  
don't always be on guard  
put away the sorrow  
reach deep within your heart  
and your mind will follow



## Plastic Steel

---

I hear babies talk into the wind  
wondering how it had been  
was it always this warm  
or only since they were born  
and with the plastic steel that surrounds them now  
had there really once been fields to plow  
war and crime and dirty air  
was it really always here

It's not confusion that's leading me nowhere  
It's not intention that's making me go there  
It's not obligation that's making me stay  
It's the things that are wrong, for so long,  
and you don't care

Is there a reason why I'm born now  
you want me to live but can you tell me how  
you call this place home sweet home  
but to me it's more like ancient Rome

Burning down  
burning up  
I don't think I can keep this up

It's not confusion that's leading me nowhere  
It's not intention that's making me go there  
It's not obligation that's making me stay  
It's the things that are wrong, for so long

and you don't care.



## She Was Everybody's Dream

---

She was everybody's dream  
 She smiled everywhere she went  
 All the young dudes deluded themselves  
 They thought she smiled just for them  
 Even old men who had lost their drive  
 Were caught up in the game  
 She had an air of such innocence  
 That no one was held to blame

She walked around town in a frilly dress  
 White sandals on her feet  
 Chance encounters were intentional  
 As people poured out on the streets  
 A word, a laugh, a smile, a hope  
 Was really all they sought  
 The people were mostly courteous  
 Over her they rarely fought

But all was not good in the hood  
 There was petty jealousy  
 It came to town the usual way  
 Religious hypocrisy  
 The preacher man, with wife in tow  
 Thought he should make a stand  
 Judged the girl with her frilly dress  
 Was a plague upon the land

The preacher man had a godly plan  
 That every Sunday he would carry out  
 From his pulpit with his arms raised high  
 Dire warnings he would shout  
 'Whores and demons walk our streets  
 With sandals on their feet,  
 It's not the path for god fearing men  
 Listen and take heed.'

She was everybody's dream  
 But then she moved away  
 A year went by and people wondered  
 Was she married, dead or gay  
 The town did change, but not for better  
 The Children no longer played  
 But every Sunday the church was filled...

...For Her return they prayed.



## situation political:

---

there is a situation political  
 if it wasn't so deceitful and harmful it would be comical  
 evidently, we ignore the things we do as a people  
     that are despicable  
 as we treat each other in ways that are harmful  
     in the worst way imaginable

if we had a legal system that was just,  
     then these acts would be tried as criminal  
 and if the mainstream media did their job  
     they would not make these crimes seem trivial  
 imagine,  
     if society held politicians and business people accountable  
     for crimes they commit against humanity and planet  
     that are undeniable

the problems facing us century after century are generational  
 the solutions are not theoretical, sensational, or magical

the answers are workable, reachable, and practical  
 requires truth, intention, and to act in a manner that is ethical

do we have to be stuck in the same downward cycle,  
     or is there another path possible?  
 not saying everything is terrible,  
     just saying too much is unacceptable

unfortunately some people think the situation is not improvable  
 and there are more than a few who are profiting,  
     their predatory actions are intentional

wanting peace shouldn't seem so radical  
 just asking to see if these issues are resolvable  
 I'm not intent on being cynical or being skeptical  
 but isn't questioning better than being gullible?

because when too many people allow themselves to be led  
 by making decisions based only on emotions  
     instead of also using their head  
 the outcome will be inevitable  
 the result will be detrimental

dreams and desires will no longer be reachable  
 words, art, and music will no longer be poetical  
 our wishes and needs will be unfulfillable

all because the planet on which we are raising our children  
 and our children's children,  
 and everything we know and love  
 has become unsustainable.

this is not acceptable.

there is another path  
     where peace and justice are sustainable  
 one where 'equality for all' is attainable  
 who knows what would happen  
     if we focused on the imaginable  
 if we started acting with kindness,  
     thinking anything is obtainable  
 to have liberty and justice for all  
     in a manner sane and functional  
 with the idea that Peace Joy and Health for all  
     is desirable (and possible).

to have this happen in my lifetime would be fantastical  
 then my desires would no longer be hypothetical

that is my situation political:



## Give this World a Chance

---

Can someone tell me why?  
Anger drives such violence

It's not that I deny  
The situation of hopelessness

It only seems unfair  
That we are caught so unaware

I ask you all to pause  
And maybe give this world a chance

Can someone tell me where?  
I could find this so called paradise

I don't believe in their truth  
But don't believe it could all be lies

It's somewhere in between  
What we call this right and wrong

I'll take my time and wait  
Only hope it doesn't take too long

Can someone tell me how?  
I'm supposed to understand

When people only preach  
But don't give out a helping hand

It's not that I deny  
The situation of hopelessness

It only seems unfair  
That we are caught so unaware

Can someone tell me who?  
Has the right to correct it all

With one swift wave of hand  
Squeeze the trigger let the hammer fall

I ask you all to pause  
And maybe give this world a chance

I ask you all to pause...

...And maybe give this world a chance.



## Some Things Worth Standing

---

There is so much to be thankful for  
But it doesn't mean we can ignore

The injustice that is in the air  
or a government that rules by fear

Or the misery that is on the street  
the sick and dying you'll never meet

Every day that I'm alive  
I see things for which I am glad  
It doesn't mean that I am blind  
to things that make people sad

I just wish that there was more  
smiles and joy across the land  
instead of someone drawing lines  
in some other person's sand

There is so much to be thankful for  
but it doesn't mean we can ignore

The forces that will hold you down  
that take your smile and make a frown

And remember, if you get knocked off your feet  
that there are still some things worth standing for

There are still,  
some things worth standing for.



## Yes Virginia, There Is Television in Heaven

---

Yes, Virginia there is  
television in heaven

And on every street corner  
a seven eleven  
Virginia don't worry  
they allow smoking there  
And have plenty of booze  
whiskey, champagne and beer

A little child who wants to know  
When you're dead where do you go  
Is it like the preacher said  
Will you be happy when you are dead?

Yes Virginia there is, a place called heaven  
Where everyone does what they believe in  
You can get all you want, no more waiting in line  
And we all have a maid, and the living is divine

You may wonder what heaven is like  
Is there plenty to eat, is it safe at night  
Will it not be too crowded, have a comfortable bed  
Hope they'll have entertainment, to comfort the dead

When you're in heaven, you'll get more than you need  
You can take what you want, it's all good indeed  
Living the grand life, they say it's the way  
Don't come too early, but do plan to stay

Yes, Virginia there is  
television in heaven  
And on every street corner  
a seven eleven  
Virginia don't worry  
they allow smoking there  
And have plenty of booze  
whiskey, champagne and beer

[What's not to like?]



## Heaven Waits for No One (Original Thought)

---

If there is something in my head,  
Put a bullet there instead

I wish I were braver, I wish I were bold  
I wish I would live to be 100 years old  
I wish that no one ever died  
I wish that no one ever cried  
And no one ever felt too bad  
And no one ever felt too sad

I don't mind the rain and pain  
But tell me why it must remain  
Everyday I hear the same  
There's someone new that we should blame  
There's trouble there in Africa  
And Europe isn't better  
Every day we invent a way  
To make our people deader

Heaven waits for no one.



## ***Just Another TV Rerun***

---

It's another western movie  
with a shootout at the end

The Indian and the cowboy  
we all know how it went

Some of them were good guys  
and some of them were bad

but the one thing you should understand  
It was all about the land

Land of the free and home of the brave

If someone disagrees with you  
just stick them in a grave

It's liberty we're fighting for

If you get in the way  
we'll kick down your door

History repeats itself  
but the lesson is never learned

That it's children and the innocent  
who wind up getting hurt

And if you ask what are we fighting for  
They'll tell you lies, then tell you more

But the one thing you should understand  
It was all about the land

It's liberty we're fighting for

If you get in the way  
we'll kick down your door

Land of the free and home of the brave

If someone don't agree with you  
...just stick them in a grave.



## Hope and Pain

---

All aboard on this ship of fools  
with no destination  
When you wished upon a star  
should have used imagination

And thought of where you'd like to be  
and do things more than just for show  
It could have all turned out much better  
you can't say we didn't know

I'm waiting at the station gate  
waiting, waiting for the train  
I'm waiting even though it looks like rain  
I'm waiting even though it might bring pain  
And though I want to go I still remain  
Waiting at the station for the train

It's not time to say good night  
it's not time to go to sleep  
Think about the things you said  
and promises you meant to keep

There were choices that we made  
to be rich instead of happy  
You always knew that it would cost you  
when you put your faith in money

I think ahead there is trouble  
I think ahead there is some pain  
Some might say it is confusing  
but I think it's pretty plain

On this path that we are going  
at the end what will remain  
With all the dollars that are stolen  
and lives extinguished just for gain

You may think it's not your doing  
you may say you're not to blame  
But in the end it doesn't matter  
we're all caught here just the same

I'm waiting at the station gate  
waiting, waiting for the train  
I'm waiting even though it looks like rain  
I'm waiting even though it might bring pain  
And though I want to go  
I still remain

Waiting at the station for the train.





## Perchance to Dream

My life that I'm living  
it feels like a dream  
And I cannot be sure  
if it is as it seems

I'm not scared of shadows  
I don't hear the screams  
But I want to be sure  
that it is just a dream

I shut my eyes

My eyes they are open  
and I think that I see  
There's a girl or a monster  
coming straight at me

I count first to ten  
and then to eleven  
Is this really hell  
or can this be heaven

I shut my eyes

I suddenly wake  
in the middle of night  
But I cannot remember  
if everything's right

Lizards and llamas  
And violets and toads  
When I dream alone  
Almost anything goes

There's a light on the dresser  
is it part of a dream?  
But I think I'm alone  
What the hell does it mean

I shut my eyes

I keep waking from dreaming  
and dreaming to sleep  
Memories fading  
which thoughts will I keep

Is it happy and joyful  
carefree and glad?

Or terribly lonely  
unhappy and sad

I shut my eyes

Can you tell if the dream  
you are dreaming is real  
Or the feeling you have  
is the way that you feel

Do you like the dreams better  
that you think are real  
So you go through your life  
and you don't have to feel

I shut my eyes

Dream, sleep  
I open my eyes  
Was it all just a nightmare  
or life in disguise?

What did I wake from  
or am I asleep  
I open my eyes  
and fall into the deep

I wake from my dream  
and now I'm asleep  
And I dream that I'm Dreaming  
dreaming of sleep

Sleep sleep  
I can't open my eyes  
And I cannot be sure  
is this truth or a lie

This dream's near the end  
or is it beginning  
Am I already dead  
or did I just start living

I shut my eyes.



## The House Is on Fire

---

A sixteen-year wind blew into town  
and what was waiting there  
young and old who came to hear  
it's time for change we cannot wait  
we need to act before it's late

We know in our hearts  
that what we do is wrong  
We must protect the earth  
and stop causing harm

Fire Fire  
The house is on fire  
It's apparent to many  
Situation is dire

Temperature's rising  
Politicians just wait  
They'll keep feeding the fire  
Until it's too late

Fire Fire  
The House is on Fire  
What should we do?  
We must put out the fire

We know we cannot wait  
our children are at risk  
Extinction raises its head  
as we stand on the brink

Fire Fire  
The house is on fire  
There's no time to wait  
The flames getting higher

The House is on Fire  
We keep fanning the flames  
With plastic and oil  
We should be ashamed

Fire Fire  
The House is on Fire  
What should we do?  
We must put out the fire

A sixteen-year old wind  
blew into our town  
That will, eventually  
knock politicians down

The wind was not alone  
The young are there to help  
And now they spread the word  
That change is in the wind

Fire Fire  
The house is on fire  
What should we do?  
We must put out the fire

Our House is on Fire  
We keep fanning the flames  
Some do it to profit  
But this isn't a game

Fire Fire  
The House is on Fire  
What should we do?  
We must put out the fire

What should we do?  
We must put out the fire

We need you and me  
It's the critical hour

What should we do?

*We must put out the fire.*



## What's Up With That?

---

*What's up with that, do you know where it's at?*

What's up, with Donald Trump's hair?  
 You'd think that being president, that he would somehow care  
 He was busy making money, Atlantic Beach Casino  
 All from Mom and Dad, I know, it's their secret place,  
 And they had to go

What's up, with the presidents?  
 They say they are compassionate, but war was what they meant  
 They think themselves as leaders, they think they are so smart  
 But others wonder how they live without a brain or a heart

What's up, the polar caps are melting  
 Global warming is just a theory, it really isn't happening,  
 Sticks and stones can break my bones,  
     but fossil fuels can't hurt me  
 Baby, you can drive my car,  
 Baby, you can drive my SUV

What's up, with those ladies in red hats  
 Don't they realize they're starting a new fad  
 Laughing and smiling, and sipping their tea  
 Red Hat Ladies are the ones for me

What's up, with our dollar bill  
 There was a time it ruled supreme, king of the hill  
 But it's been worth less than the Euro, and the Canadian dollar  
 99 cent America, getting cheaper by the hour

What's up, with that thing called old age  
 Running hot, but seething with a cold rage  
 No one warned you, your knees are gone, you're getting fat  
 Forget your dreams, now it's time to feed your cat

What's up with that?

There are some things that don't make sense  
 Better neighbors with a higher fence

People driving bigger cars  
 The fascination with movie stars

Tattooed girls who shave their hair  
 And they don't mind if people stare

Listening to hip hop  
 Can you find an honest cop?

Everybody close your mind  
 Thinking is the highest crime

And even though things are not fair  
 There are some people who just don't care

There are some people who just don't care

What's up with that?



## Listen Fred

---

Listen Fred  
you got to shake a leg

You got no time  
to drink cheap wine

If you're feeling sad  
you got to move your feet

If you're feeling hot  
then turn down the heat

Freddie Man, you got to have a plan  
to realize when to make a stand

You can't run and hide, there's no free ride  
you might get hurt, sometimes you'll cry

Sorry Freddie, we tried to warn you  
there is no magic that will fix your head

But listen closely and you will find  
if you want an answer, don't close your mind

Fred my brother, here's what was said  
open your mind to clear your head

If you want to live, you have to learn to give  
gratitude is the greatest gift

Listen Freddie, you must get ready  
look in your soul and you might see

You are not trapped by destiny  
so make your future, set yourself free

If you feel the notion to smile or laugh  
just let it flow, don't let it pass

When you feel the truth  
you have to learn to speak

When you feel the music  
you have to move your feet

[Freddie man, here's what was said.  
Better start living, before you're dead.]



## Will the Circle Be Broken?

---

The king of the hill  
 he's sitting there still  
 As his general is waiting  
 for orders to kill

A doctor is waiting  
 to save someone's life  
 As the thief in the alley  
 waits with a knife

Will the circle be broken?  
 Or are we all insane  
 Keep repeating the same thing  
 But expect things to change

Will the circle be broken  
 The injustice must stop  
 But it only will happen  
 With change at the top

Man on a horse,  
 doesn't think of the past  
 Man in a spaceship,  
 is going down fast

Man in the coal mine,  
 carries his scars  
 Man in the crosshairs,  
 is caught in the fire

Will the circle be broken?  
 Or are we all insane  
 Keep repeating the same thing  
 But expect things to change

You say we made progress  
 compared to the past  
 You say that the wars  
 are a fluke and won't last

Destroying the oceans  
 and land and the air  
 You say to yourself  
 that the world doesn't care

Killing and stealing  
 for money and gold  
 Did you really believe  
 all the lies that you told

Will the circle be broken?  
 Or are we all insane  
 Keep repeating the same thing  
 But expect things to change

When the circle is broken  
 The injustice will stop  
 But it only will happen  
 With change at the top.

Will the circle be broken?  
 It's all up to you

It all comes down to  
 What you choose to do.



## Keep Going (Perseverance)

---

Put one foot in front of the other  
And then just do it again  
You keep on going and going  
And if you end up where you began

Then you keep going  
And you keep going  
And then we begin

Growing up, didn't realize  
That life is complicated  
There are consequences to bad decisions  
Had to learn not to repeat it

Some say money's the answer  
But that is just a lie  
It just keeps us going in circles  
So we don't even try

If you find yourself in struggle  
With the things that are around you  
Or you feel you're overwhelmed  
By people who surround you

You may think about giving up  
Just want to run away  
Then you realize you can't do that  
Have to face your fears today

There are many people talking  
And lots of them complain  
About how we treat each other  
And the anger and the pain

We can create the world we want  
When we choose love over fear  
But first we have to walk the talk  
And treat each other fair

We have to change, that much is true  
And if you're wondering how  
The first step is to do what's right  
You have to start right now

If you feel you're getting tired  
And you can't take it no more  
Don't give up, the Dalai Lama said  
It's what we're struggling for

If you want to break the cycle  
You will have to make a change  
Can't buy your way to happiness  
And wars are just insane

Many times you'll stumble [and fall]  
And feel that you can't take it  
But if you try, and persevere  
You might eventually make it

So you keep going, and you keep going  
And then we begin.

Put one foot in front of the other  
And then just do it again  
You keep on going and going  
And if you end up where you began

Then you keep going  
And you keep going

And then we begin.



## My Friend

---

Each and every day my friend, I wonder if this is the day  
with everything collapsing in, everything coming to an end

And what will be the last words that you say, my friend  
and what will be the last words that you hear,

'Pleased to see you, glad I knew you,  
sad to know this is the end, my friend'

Every day I hear of people starving on this earth  
and everyday I hear of someone, somewhere, giving birth  
Everyday I hear people say that they don't want war  
and everyday we build another weapon and say we need more

Every day we hear of another politician on the take  
and the president's more concerned about the money  
that some company should make

Everybody talks about peace, love, and understanding  
But words without action, don't mean a thing

Every day we wait and don't work for justice and peace  
is another day for the things that we want to be more out of reach

Everybody talks about peace, love, and understanding  
But words without action, don't mean a thing.

Each and every day my friend I wonder  
If this is the day that it ends  
With everything collapsing in  
Everything coming to an end, my friend

Everybody talks about peace, love, and understanding

But unfortunately my friend,  
words without action, don't mean a thing.



## Living in Peace

---

What's it going to take  
For people to awake  
And realize we're off course  
And it's a big mistake

When will we be true  
To things we need to do  
And not sell our self short  
The change begins with you

I don't know what you want from me  
I don't share your view of destiny

The king has no clothes on, I see through his lies  
His actions are clear, there is no disguise  
Where money, greed, and selfish deeds, always get reward  
Where lies are traded, truths degraded, it can all be bought

I don't want to bleed, I don't feel the need

I'm living in a world where the stealing is easy  
And justice, compassion, does not have a chance

I'm living in a world that is run by the greedy  
And lies and deceit are just part of the plan

I'm living in a world that is selling its own soul  
And its new owners, they don't care at all

I'm living in a world where life has no value  
Not the trees or the water or the birds or the poor

I'm living in a world that is breaking its own neck  
By killing and cheating and making up wars

I'm living in a world that cannot imagine...

...All of the people,  
...Living in Peace

All of the people, Living in Peace

All of the people, Living in Peace

... *Imagine*



## Aftersong:

---

### The Song Inside

Listen to your beating heart inside  
Put thoughts to words and let it ride  
Feel the rhythm that is your life  
Take the song you hear, and let it shine

When you start to listen you will hear  
Songs of mind and soul that fill the air  
Once you begin your song you'll know  
Where it will lead you, where you will go

Most of us have a song inside  
But some of us try to hide it  
There are exceptions to this rule  
The dead, the angry, and the fool

Don't be afraid for all to hear  
Nothing kills the song more than fear  
While there are some who will doubt  
Most will smile when you let it out

There is not one song for all to hear  
Just share with all, both far and near  
Take laughs and smiles and tears and sadness  
And make it work against the madness

You will not flounder, you will not fail  
Take the song inside and let it sail  
There is no wrong, there is no right  
Take the song inside, and let it shine.

### Shine



*This poem/song is dedicated to my mom, Iren Dekmar Gyenis,  
who has a song for every occasion.*

### Words are Important

"We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be." ~ *Kurt Vonnegut*

"The time is always right to do what is right."  
~ *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"There is a price to pay for speaking the truth. There is a bigger price for living a lie." ~ *Cornel West*

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are for." ~ *John A. Shedd*

"I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be honorable, to be compassionate. It is, after all, to matter: to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all." ~ *Leo C. Rosten*

"We look forward to the time when the Power of Love will replace the Love of Power. Then will our world know the blessings of Peace." ~ *William E. Gladstone*

"Our job is nothing less than to Save the World." ~ *Ken Kesey*

"Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." ~ *Carl Bard*

"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it." ~ *Michelangelo*

"Nothing happens unless first a dream."  
~ *Carl Sandburg*

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."  
~ *Mahatma Gandhi*

"I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying." ~ *Michael Jordan*

**There is no peace without justice,  
and there is no justice if it is based on lies.  
More Peace, Less Hate Attila**



War creates peace like hate creates love. ~ David L. Wilson

That we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public. ~Theodore Roosevelt

"It is better to vote for what you want and not get it than to vote for what you don't want and get it." ~ *Eugene Debs*

It's difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it. ~ Sinclair Lewis

"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be." ~ Thomas Jefferson

The worst crimes were dared by a few, willed by more and tolerated by all. ~Tacitus

"To search for solutions to hunger means to act within the principle that the status of a citizen surpasses that of a mere consumer."

~ CITY OF BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL

The Roots of Violence: Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Commerce without morality, Science without humanity, Worship without sacrifice, Politics without principles ~ Mahatma Gandhi

