

# Pieces and Parts

Laurie Anderson

They say that in 1842 on a plantation in Alabama  
The slaves unearthed a huge skeleton,  
the bones of a giant whale,  
a leviathan,  
from the time when all the world was covered with water  
from the Andes to the Himalayas  
and even Alabama was deep down under.  
And the slaves looked at the huge bones and they said: These must be the bones of a fallen angel  
These must be the bones of a fallen angel Out on the ocean, out of the water  
We look for signs of him  
He looks like a giant snow hill, a fountain  
Then he disappears. He's a speck on the horizon We see him only in parts  
The flash of a tail, his beating heart.  
He's in pieces and parts. It's easier for a camel to slide through the eye of a needle  
Than to find a whale who hides at the bottom of the ocean  
It's easier to sail around the world in a coffee cup  
Than to see a whale when he comes rising up We see him only in parts  
A fountain, fins, a speck on the horizon  
Giant teeth, an open mouth  
Look out, look out, look out, look out So hit an elephant with a dart  
and he just reaches around and pulls it out with his trunk  
But hit a whale in the heart and the whole ocean turns red,  
It turns red. We see him only in parts  
The flash of a tail, his beating heart  
He's in pieces and parts So get hit in your head  
And there may be a few things you can't recall at all  
But you get hit in your heart  
And you're in pieces and parts  
Pieces and parts.

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