

Gates of Eden

Arlo Guthrie

Of war and peace the truth just twists, its curfew gull it glides

Upon four legged forest clouds the cowboy angel rides

With his candle lit into the sun though it's glow is waxed in black

All except beneath the trees of EdenThe lamp post stands with folded arms its iron claws attached

To curbs 'neath holes where babies wail

Through its shadow's metal badge

All in all can only fall with a crashing but meaningless blow

No sound ever comes from the Gates of EdenThe savage soldier sticks his head in the sand and then complains

Unto the shoeless hunter who's gone deaf but still remains

Upon the beach where hound dogs bay at ships with tattooed sails

Heading for the Gates of EdenThe time rusted compass blade, Aladdin and his lamp

Sits with Utopian hermit monks, side saddle on the Golden Calf

And on their promises of paradise you will not hear a laugh

All except inside the Gates of EdenRelationships of ownership they whisper in the wings

To those condemned to act accordingly and wait for succeeding kings

And I try to harmonize with songs the lonesome sparrow sings

There are no kings inside the Gates of EdenThe motorcycle 'Black Madonna', two-wheeled gypsy queen

And her silver-studded phantom cause the gray flannel dwarf to scream

As he weeps to wicked birds of prey, pick up on his bread crumb sins

And there are no sins inside the Gates of EdenThe kingdoms of experience in the precious winds they rot

While paupers change possessions

Each one wishing for what the other has got

And the princess and the prince discuss what's real and what's not

It doesn't matter inside the Gates of EdenThe foreign sun it squints upon a bed that is never mine

As friends and others, strangers from their fates try to resign

Leaving men holy and totally free to do anything they wish to do but die

And there are no trials inside the Gates of EdenAt dawn my lover comes to me and tells me of her dreams

With no attempts to shovel the glimpse

Into the ditch of what each one means

At times I think there are no words but these to tell what's true

And there are no truths outside the Gates of Eden

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