

The Greatest Show On Earth (2015)

Nightwish

Archaean horizon
The first sunrise
On a pristine gaea
Opus perfectum

Somewhere there, us sleeping After sleeping through a hundred million centuries
We have finally opened our eyes on a sumptuous planet, sparkling with color, bountiful with life
Within decades we must close our eyes again
Isn't it a noble and enlightened way of spending our brief time in the sun

To work at understanding the universe and how we have come to wake up in it? The cosmic law of gravity

Pulled the newborns around a fire
A careless cold infinity in every vast direction
Lonely farer in the Goldilocks zone
She has a tale to tell
From the stellar nursery into a carbon feast
Enter LUCA The tapestry of chemistry
There's a writing in the garden
Leading us to the mother of all We are one
We are a universe
Forebears of what will be
Scions of the Devonian sea
Aeons pass
Writing the tale of us all
A day-to-day new opening

For the greatest show on Earth Ion channels welcoming the outside world
To the stuff of stars
Bedding the tree of a biological holy
Enter life The tapestry of chemistry
There's a writing in the garden
Leading us to the mother of all We are one
We are a universe
Forebears of what will be
Scions of the Devonian sea
Aeons pass
Writing the tale of us all
A day-to-day new opening

For the greatest show on Earth We are here to care for the garden
The wonder of birth
Of every form most beautiful
Every form most beautiful We are one

We are a universe
 Forebears of what will be
 Scions of the Devonian sea
 Aeons pass writing the tale of us all
 A day-to-day new opening

For the greatest show on EarthAfter a billion years The show is still here

 Not a single one of your fathers died young
 The handy travelers out of Africa
 Little Lucy of the AfarGave birth to fantasy
 To idolatry

 To self-destructive weaponry
 Enter the God of gaps
 Deep within the past

Atavistic dread of the huntedEnter Ionia, the cradle of thought

 The architecture of understanding
 The human lust to feel so exceptional
To rule the EarthHunger for shiny rocks

 For giant mushroom clouds
The will to do just as you'd be done by

 Enter history, the grand finale
Enter ratkindMan, he took his time in the sun

 Had a dream to understand
 A single grain of sand
 He gave birth to poetry
 But one day'll cease to be

Greet the last light of the libraryMan, he took his time in the sun

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Greet the last light of the libraryWe were here!

 We were here!
 We were here!

We were here!"We are going to die, and that makes us the lucky ones

Most people are never going to die because they are never going to be born

 The potential people who could have been here in my place

But who will in fact never see the light of day outnumber the sand grains of Sahara

Certainly those unborn ghosts include greater poets than Keats, scientists greater than Newton

 We know this because the set of possible people allowed by our DNA

 So massively exceeds the set of actual people

In the teeth of those stupefying odds it is you and I, in our ordinariness, that are here
We privileged few, who won the lottery of birth against all odds
How dare we whine at our inevitable return to that prior state
From which the vast majority have never stirred?"There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers
Having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one
And that whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity
From so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been
And are being, evolved

Songwriters

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