

Mountain Men

Jethro Tull

The poacher and his daughter
Throw soft shadows on the water in the night
A thin moon slips behind them

As they pull the net with no betraying light
And later on the coast road, I meet them
And the old man winks a smile
And who am I to fast deny the right

To take a fish once in a while? I walk with them, they wish me luck
When I ship out on the Sunday from the Kyle
And from the church I hear them singing
As the ship moves sadly from the pier
Oh, poachers daughter, Sunday best

Two hundred brave souls share the farewell tear
Well, there's a house on the hillside
Where the drifting sands are born
Lay down and let the slow tide wash me
Back to the lands where I came from
Where the mountain men are kings

And the sound of the piper counts for everything
I did my tour, did my duty
I did all they asked of me
Died in the trenches and at El Alamein
Died in the Falklands on TV
Going back to the mountain kings

Where the sound of the piper counts for everything
Long generations from the Isles
Sent to tread the foreign miles
Where the spiral ages meet
Felt naked dust beneath their feet
Future sun called winds to blow
And the past and present hard-eyed crow
Flew hunting high and circling low

Over blackened plains of Eden
There's a child and a woman praying
For an end to the mystery
Hoping for a word in a letter
Fair wind-blown from across the sea
To where the mountain men are kings

And the sound of the piper counts for everything
There's a house on the hillside
Where the drifting sands are born
Lay down and let the slow tide wash me
Back to the lands where I came from
Where the mountain men are kings

And the sound of the piper counts for everything
Where the real mountain men are kings

And the sound of that piper counts for everything
Feel the naked dust beneath my toes

While the future sun calls winds to blow
And the past and present black-eyed crow
 Flies hunting high and circling low
 Between dream mountains of our Eden

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