

# Flatlands

## Barn Owl

In the middle of the journey, in the middle of the day  
I came to a city and I stopped to ask the way  
What does it matter? Said the people with a sneer  
You can't get there from here

You may be a gallant runner, you may hobble with the lame  
There are forty crooked hedgerows and they all look just the same  
Traveling gets weary, you get funny in the head  
Stop right here instead

Well, says I, I was only passing through  
I'd like to stop and rest a while, it's true  
Then I asked them for a job to do  
They gave me life insurance and a straw to chew

Welcome to the flatlands  
All the maps agree  
Far as the eye can see  
It's level, dead level  
Flatlands: life meanders by  
Chew a straw and watch the grass grow high

And it's stand we stand together, fall you fall alone  
Authority's a leash of love to bring you safely home  
Fools look out for trouble where foreign breezes blow  
Tell your children so

They've got to keep things ticking, they must never go on strike  
They'll be standing there till Doomsday with their fingers in the dyke  
There's faith and hope and patience and patience is the best  
Turn your face from the rest

Well, says I, I'm much obliged to you  
Everywhere I go I'm learning something new  
If I understand your point of view  
You don't believe we're dying our whole life through

Welcome to the flatlands...

And if they waste nothing they can keep their little pile

And if they say nothing they will not be on file  
And if they see nothing no one will see them  
No one will take down their name

And if they do not panic the pain will vanish soon  
And if they never sing they'll never be out of tune  
And if they are faithful they will get their reward  
And if they are meek they will be spared

Well, says I, I was only passing through  
I'd better get a move on 'cause the days are few  
Poppies are red, cornflowers blue  
The scythe is sharp the mowing's due

Welcome to the flatlands...

Wonder where the flying years go  
Chew a straw and watch the grass grow high

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