Prayer Without Words

Mary Gauthier

Packing vagabond visions and a dream drenched hunger for a home
Swaddled in road dirt, blood stained blankets and poems
On a stormy suitcase Sunday, I awakened to the scream of the birds
They held their high notes and offered prayer without wordsSinking in asphalt, speechlessness and what coulda been
Surrounded by strangers, scarred stars, stoned broken men
Riding the narcotic night 'til she swerved and smashed into the curb
Morning spilled from the wreckage and offered prayer without wordsChains on the mast pull the past, nothin' lasts but nothin' ever ends
I leave town, break new ground, break down, leave town again
Trapped in the circle, anchored to the weight of the world
Under shooting stars that sink the skies and offer prayer without wordsJustice rides with jaundiced eyes, jaded judges bleed the broken bench
Liberty's a homicide, she been flogged to death
With money's monkey wrench
Desperado apostates set fire to every holy word we've heard
Silence billows from the burning books and offers prayer without wordsSurrender, that sweet cleaning girl
She folds white flags in Hallelujah Square
She can't remember where she's been one day I'm gonna join her there
Unpack my battered traveling case
Hang out a sign that says, 'Do Not Disturb'
Dissolve into the dream and sleep that offers prayer without words

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