

**Quotes**

**A]** He quoted words from the bible  
Words of the prophets, liked the psalms  
Said he'd fill my empty head  
With words of wise ones quick and dead ~  
He quoted from memory  
Words he said were Lao Tzu's  
But the Dao De Jing  
Didn't mean anything to me.....

**B]** He quoted Shakespeare and Milton  
Oscar Wilde, Richard Burton  
The other one not the actor  
As if to me it would matter~  
Said he'd memorized in French  
The Essays of Montaigne, a mensch  
Quoted Nietzsche and Adorno  
Said they were famous what do I know? ~

**A]** Then he left he went away  
My head filled up with all those quotes  
No goodbyes just disappeared  
Empty winds no post-it-notes  
I left that place a' wandering  
To find somewhere to call my own  
Find somewhere to fill a need  
Quote some wisdom plant the seed

**B]** He quoted Shakespeare and Milton  
Oscar Wilde, Dorothy Parker  
That lady had a tongue on her  
Burned some bridges seemed so bitter

Quoted Verlaine, Eliot and Pound  
Read out loud he liked the sound  
Spoke long lines of Samuel Beckett  
Not the priest, the author checked it

**A]** I met some people who read books  
I quoted words I thought they'd know  
Consternation and strange looks  
What they said brought me sorrow  
The words I'd learned were made up  
Not the words of learned souls  
My noises were nonsensical  
Common place and useless too

~~~~

### Should be Sung

I don't want to believe – you were right I was wrong  
Now there's a wall between us, I can't speak through  
Life isn't the same once we left what we knew  
And all that I'm left with are chords to a song

I don't know if I can sing/ I don't know why I believe  
That something will survive/ that all this will work out

I know I said I read what the facts were  
What I didn't know was facts can change  
That idea still makes me feel like I'm crazy  
You said I was in denial in my anger my fear

I don't know if there's a way out of this  
I don't know so much what to believe  
It's not hopeless not yet I think  
But a way forward is hard to see

I was wrong then and might be wrong now  
How to apologize will it even matter?  
Will you hear the words, meaning, the feelings  
Will you survive now you're ill?

Is a song the right response?/ Is there more I could do?  
Is hope the only thing/ Isn't there something stronger still?

I sit at the piano or grab a guitar/ A pencil or pen near at hand  
I'd rather write a letter and send it to you  
I'd rather get together, play it in a band

I believe you are right and I was wrong  
My voice is muffled/ you're too far away  
I want to help/ I don't know how  
I thought there was always something to say

For now the song is over/ too many ignored  
The helpless have suffered/no justice restored  
We've gone on too long/ thinking we're moving forward  
But there's too many dying, too many dead.

We're going backward it's not the good old days  
They weren't so good no matter what they say  
If the times were hard, it was only yesterday  
The future's not bright for those who don't the right  
to expect to live, live a better life.

~ ~ ~

**Farther**

We've wandered far, so far to go/ no end in sight, too hard to know  
What we've been through – it repeats/ Our simple wins, painful defeats

Have we gained insight/ learned our lessons  
About our history, prepared us for what's next  
I don't know, / don't think so,

Under the freeway soot drops onto my tent  
Live under the overpass, not what I wanted  
The only place I have/ the only place to stay  
It's not safe but it's a dry place to be

They've evicted me /no job I couldn't pay  
My nose filled with pollution/ my brains stuck in neutral  
No insight no intuition/ ~ ~ ~ what a life to lead

I'm following the stream of life, don't know where else to go  
I'm trying to do what's right, it's harder than you know  
What's right at times is wrong more often than seems right  
And sometimes you think it's better to give up than fight.

But death ain't the option, no matter what they want  
us to believe, we'll survive whatever they deliver  
We know what is possible, how to survive  
We've been here before and we're still alive

*chorus;*

The river is deep but we know how to swim/ do you?  
The river takes us places we've never been/ but it won't take you.

~ ~ ~

**Find another way**

I am not for sale but I can be bought  
I didn't know but now I do  
Facebook sold my soul and would pay me I thought  
But now I know it's not true.

I have made my thoughts/ Available to anyone  
who has the knowledge/ to take them and run  
I have made my thoughts/ Available to anyone  
And now I know, those people are cruel....

I thought that I had something  
unique and worth something  
Something that maybe someone would pay for""""  
But then I found out that all the platforms  
took money from me,  
took money from me  
took money from me that i never gotta penny for.""""

It seems that every way that might provide a pittance  
Only makes money for others  
As if I didn't matter, and it turns out I don't  
So why should I try?  
To understand why?  
They've got the upper hand  
and the only way to stand/ is to not play  
and you'll fail anyway  
but don't play, it won't pay  
it's a long road/ find a way  
to do it some other way.

~ ~ ~

**Hearts**

V1

The 8 of hearts trampled and torn  
Box for sale "baby shoes never worn"  
His tears fell on the upturned soil  
A small grave, he turns away

V2

He was doomed, loved no longer  
Like that card, those shoes, abandoned  
Creatures great and small prayed  
for the little one

(Chorus)

What ghosts may know, spiders spin  
Owls on silent frightening wings  
He walks away wondering  
If his life means anything

V3

Eight is too close to infinity,  
Each turned sideways, like two hearts beating  
The one in his chest the one below  
Don'

t beat as one, no more no more

V4

He stumbles, creatures wary watch  
Roots are hurdles or walls to feeling  
His heartbeats fade his pain, the pain  
Creatures return to the business of living  
coda/chorus chords;

He walked away wondering/  
what life means

Creatures return to the business of living  
He is not sure he can ~ ~ ~

Anything Once or Twice

I've eaten things you might think are disgusting  
Things you've never tried perhaps you never will  
Doesn't matter how they taste, Just the thought hesitates  
I think you don't know what you're missing.

I'll try anything anytime, as long as it won't kill me  
Even if it will, I might try it once or twice  
The color or the smell can't dissuade me  
Even if the taste isn't nice.  
Yeah I'll still try it, once or twice

Bull balls in Spain after the fight  
Barnacles with too much sand  
Snails still wriggling against the garlic heat and light  
I won't lie I'm not a gourmand

I just eat for pleasure, for the adventure  
I'll eat anything at least once or twice  
If it makes me sick, I'll try to avoid it  
I'm not suicidal, I'm hungry that's the price

It's the kind of guy I am, I've even been in love  
Even though it didn't work out, hearts of ice  
It didn't stop me trying though it left me crying  
I still tried to fall in love once or twice

*ibid*

I'll eat sushi by the truckload, anchovies on my pizza  
Habanero peppers spread on toast  
Homemade mayonnaise made from Ostrich Eggs  
Wasn't the best, I tried it once or twice

You only live once not twice  
So try all of it at least once  
You might find a surprise you like  
Variety is life's spice. ~ ~ ~

Doing Good

he boards the bus/ diseased filled lungs  
screams obscenities at everyone  
sick or just ill at heart  
can barely stand the crowd parts

he sits right next to someone young  
coughs uncovered tries to bum  
a cigarette or some spare change  
driver stops gets in the way

he yells mind your business/ do your job  
the driver calmly says, I am  
protect the public from your harm  
protect us from a dangerous man

that's what's hard to do these days  
help each other, make our way  
though each day, it seems harder  
hard to care, hard to bother

the driver waits the man gives up  
rises walks to the open door  
yelling prepares to spit, trips  
falls to the floor (onto the sidewalk)

doors close the madman outside/  
rises hammers on the door  
doesn't matter anymore/  
bus moves on a gentle ride

it's hard to care, stand for good/  
that's the hard lesson learned/  
catch the flame don't fear the burn  
if we can do good, and then/  
we can do it again.     ~ ~ ~



Only Take

All my songs start with I don't know  
 It's not false modesty I've got none  
 The situations I find myself  
 Don't allow certainty it's not fun

{1st} We were in love just not with each other  
 Never bothered to admit our mistake  
 We never saw eye to eye  
 No compromise no give and take  
 only take

There's things I won't tell, I don't know why  
 Simple things you don't think matter  
 There's certain movies that make me cry  
 I can't tell you and it makes you madder

{2nd} We were in love – not with each other  
 Our ideas of who we were, were in the way  
 We never saw I'm left you're right  
 How we got together we couldn't say

All my songs start with I don't know  
 All words of love, worth nothing  
 I didn't have courage, no convictions  
 I didn't know why I had to sing

{3rd} We said so long, no heartbreak  
 Parted ways, never friends  
 Didn't say goodbye no longing looks back  
 We weren't in love so it ended  
*first chorus; {1st} ~ ~ ~*

**Desire**

Speak of Desire/ As if they know  
What is desired is never Found  
The hills echo with cries of souls  
Alive or dead I do not know

I heard them, I hear their song  
I've heard them sing all night long  
It draws me near, drives me away  
Makes me cry, makes me pray

Some speak of love as if they know  
What love is, how to fall  
To fall is simple, to leave is hard  
It'll pin your spine, to your heartbeats

It hurts so bad, might feel good  
Never stops, only starts  
I cry out, panic, lost in woods  
Darkened forest ancient trees

They speak to me as ancient gods  
I don't understand the words they use  
The stones crack tumble down  
Buried 'neath no tears left

Since then my music on a breeze  
Might lull you near, help you sleep  
Or dreams I sing could fill your life  
And ease your troubles, hold your sorrow

Speak no more the song is done  
Stones sit silent I am understand  
Yet in spring will come again  
With dreams of love and desire.

~ ~ ~

### **What we knew**

We want to know (*how much longer*)  
Will this go on (*how much longer*)  
Will we survive (*will we will we?*)  
Who can provide us with some safety? (security)

We want to know (*who knows the answer?*)  
When will this end (*will it will it?*)  
And when it does (*when and if it does*)  
Who will be left to carry on carry on

I want to know, if you'll walk with me  
If when this is over, will we live free  
Will we survive, as a people who believe  
That we are stronger in unity

We thought we knew, that those we chose  
Would protect us from enemies our woes  
We found or thought we did, for the right to live free  
Found out our voices were sold as property

I don't have answers (*who does, who does*)  
Not sure the right or wrong (*who does, who does*)  
I know the only way for me (*the only way*)  
Think this through make my choices and sing my song.

~ ~ ~

**Wonder**

Child points finger to the sky  
In wonder, I wonder too  
I look the child looks looking up  
Laid back, a stroller, sky is blue

I smile we smile no choice we must  
A child's wonder no longer ours  
Or is it? Carried, smiling sparked  
Refreshed my wonder at that power

For theirs, infectious ~ or at least inspired.  
The birch bark peeled whiskersing in wind,  
I turn to look hear wonder  
where I wonder then I see.

Is that the way the babe in arms  
Looks to mother, father, nanny?  
Freed from care, no harm/alarm  
In peace to wonder freely

It is the wonder which we lose  
That wonder lost until we spy  
then wonder of all wondered world  
A child points finger towards the sky.

~ ~ ~

**No one knows**

Wondering if all this talk about how the world will change  
Thinking that someone must know what the change will bring  
It's hard to accept the thought and yet it's one that's so  
Everyone has a guess but no one really knows

v2;

Some have said it's the end of life, end of the world  
Professionals carry on outside their fields  
hard to understand what their knowledge shows  
Everyone is guessing ~ cause no one really knows

*chorus;*

No one knows there just opinions  
No one knows, no matter what they say  
No one know despite predictions  
What will happen even today

They say one thing today, tomorrow say it's wrong  
Change the information makes us doubt  
We know it's about science and going slow  
But it leaves us confused cause no one really knows

*chorus;*

Can't listen to the pundits, talking to themselves  
Wonder if it matters that you can't stand it anymore  
The lights went out for some, so many days ago  
And no one seems to understand, no one really knows

*chorus;*

My shoeshine friend in quarantine, can't get enough to eat  
My waiter friend is jobless, there's no one there to feed  
Politicians speak at graveyards, all for show  
We need better answers, cause we don't really know

~ ~ ~

### **Kick the Sod**

The dead are all around us  
Gather witness to our follies  
We join them in their laughter  
Knowing life is short

We've come so far the end is nigh  
A snort a chuckle burp or fart  
A liveliness a living soul  
We kick the sod up to the sky

{C} Trust is hard to come by/ Trust is hard to give  
Kick the sod up to the sky/ Dance and trust then live

Dance upon our elders graves  
Kick the sod up merry high  
The keepers have all gone home (*may delete 'all' eventually*)  
Those husbands to their wives

We'll dance around the silent stones  
They mark a kind of history  
If there's sorrow we don't know  
It's long ago a mystery

{C} Trust is hard to come by/ Trust is hard to give  
Kick the sod up to the sky/ Dance and trust then live

We wish for shoes for shoeless ones  
A bowl of soup the bowl a hat  
A bowl a hat but what we want  
Is a job to buy some bread

Is life a folly?  
All answers end with no  
Sing out and dance if jolly  
Kick the sod up and go

{C} yes life is a folly / Trust is hard to give  
Kick the sod up to the sky/ Dance and trust then live

~ ~ ~

**Future**

When I was young there was no future  
Just a here and now no other time or place  
Now that I'm old and grey, wrinkles to my navel  
The future's so near at hand, got no time to worry  
They said long ago, the future is ours  
They didn't mean you and I only those in power  
They said you could be anything – follow your dreams  
Then They just stomped on it in anyway it seemed

*Chorus;*

heads in the sand or in the clouds, sky was pink when sunny  
Later on when corruption struck it was all “follow the money”  
We tried oh we tried it seemed the right thing to do  
We tried to save some future for the future is you

The future is where we are the choices we make  
All the promises , accept them?, big mistake  
We never reckoned with the costs, down the road  
Headlong headstrong forward always forward  
It's hard to know the future if the future's already here  
It's even sadder when it's the future we fear  
What future's brought us some good lots more bad  
The days ahead full of light, days of darkness, so sad

*Chorus;*

Is there hope, let's suppose so  
for the future is what's ahead no other way to go.  
Still there are decisions about moves we take  
Try to avoid all our past mistakes.  
We've been through a cold war a space race  
Both spawned many woes and some grace  
even then, we worried about pollution  
Deluded thinking consuming more was a solution

*Chorus;*

heads in the sand or in the clouds, sky was pink when sunny  
 Later on when corruption struck it was all "follow the money"  
 We tried oh we tried it seemed the right thing to do  
 We tried to save some future for the future is you  
 ~ ~ ~

### **Force of Nature**

I grew up listening to the sea  
 A channel width that could be swum  
 Not often though just possibility  
*[no words]*

*Chorus;*

*It's not easy work/the pay is poor/the weather worse  
 The boss a racist/and what's more/ this field's cursed  
 The sea encroaches, levels rise/Weather changes before our eyes  
 Only fools swim 'gainst the tide/Not seen again, the ocean cries*

The waves against our rocky shore/ Susurrated upon embankments  
 As a child, winds seemed to roar/ and flooded our foundations

Morning came as morning does/ Unexpected but no surprise  
 Sun shone clearly on what we prized/ Was nothing but to start again

*Chorus;*

The sea will take away/To return? They are wrong  
 What the tide returns/ Is not what we long for  
 The bodies are below/ water soil gravel  
 The entourage in black/ returns from where they traveled

When winds and waves rise up against/ Whatever walls we've built  
 Do not expect to win ~ beware/ The force of nature.