Tim Mcilrath "What Are We Gonna Do?"

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What are we gonna do?
Said the hungry child to a father with empty hands
What are we gonna do?
When the smoke clears
And reveals no promise land
What are we gonna do?
I don't know, it's a long long way to go.
What are we gonna do?

Sparse across the table like a pile of fallen leaves She stares down and up at hay bales then up at him

And unaware the journey that his father made for him But when the man asked for his papers

He replied with empty hands

And from the graves we dig for dreams, not realize

Do you hear these muffled cries What are we gonna do?

What are we gonna do? And who is going to whistle for our sins

Could it be you? Or me
When they left our fingerprints
What are we gonna do?
I don't know, it's a long, long way to go
What are we gonna do?

Somewhere in the spaces of a 9 round magazine
The cowards pull the triggers at the seams
And the apple of our eyes cannot survive these
sharpened teeth
Like Abraham and Isaac
We will sacrifice and like it
And when the sun sets
We will wait here patiently
We fall sleep but we don't dream

What are we gonna do?
Said the lion to the lamb
As they drew lines in the sand
Said the trees to the man

When there were no seeds left to plant

Said the widow to the grave

As her roses fade away Said the hills to the sky As they kissed our last goodbye

Said the worker to the chief Acts like a boss, more like a thief Said the ocean to the shore As the tides grow more and more

Said the soldier to the priest What is it that I should believe? Said the desert to the rain When will you visit us again?

How do we explain
To children dancing in the rain
What are we gonna do?

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