

## Chuck Berry "Pass Away"

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(Recitation)

Once in Persia reigned a king who upon his royal ring  
carved these words so true and wise  
Which when held before his eyes gave him counsel at a  
glance of his life of changing chance  
Solemn words and these are they: "Even this shall pass  
away"

Trains of camels through the sand brought him gems  
from Samarkand  
Fleets of galleys through the sea brought him pearls to  
match with thee  
But he counted not his gain nor his treasure, mine or  
main  
"What is wealth ?", the king would say, "Even this shall  
pass away"

In the revel of his court, at the zenith of his sport  
When the palms of all his guests burned with clapping  
at his zest  
He among his figs and wine would cry, "Oh, loving  
friends of mine  
Pleasures may come, but they cannot stay, like even  
this shall pass away ?"

The most beautiful woman ever seen was the bride he  
chose his queen  
Pillowed on their royal bed, whispering to her soul he  
said:  
"Though a bridegroom never pressed dearer bosom to  
his chest  
But mortal flesh must come to clay and even these  
shall pass away"

Towering over the village square, thirty meters in the  
air  
Rose his statue, carved in stone, as the king stood  
there alone  
Gazing at his sculptured name, said to himself, "So  
what is fame ?  
Fame, it's but slow decay, even this shall pass away"

Fighting furiously on a battlefield, once a javelin  
pierced his shield  
Soldiers with a loud lament bore him bleeding to his  
tent  
Groaning from his tortured side, "Pain is hard to bear",  
he cried  
"Oh, but with patience day by day, even this shall pass  
away"

Sick and sore with cancer; weak and tired and old, just  
minutes yet to go to pass the gates o' gold  
Spake he with his dying breath, "Life is done, so what is  
death?"  
Then in answer to the king fell a sunbeam on his ring  
Reflecting words he failed to say: "Even this shall pass  
away"

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