

## **Elvis Costello**

### **"Little Atoms"**

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I arose and Marigold lay down with Curious Iris  
Cherry gave to Victor her prudence and her virus  
For the sake of purity I can recall the time and place  
Between wisdom and murder she gave up her,  
immaculate face

My poor belated chastity fell foul of grown up games  
With false and lovely modesty I can recall the names I'll  
miss  
In the particle of me that cares for this  
I betrayed those little atoms with a kiss

Patience has her virtue still but every grace must have  
its price  
I through some felicity may spin a tale of constant vice  
I took my better nature out, drowned it in the babbling  
stream  
Took the blossom of my youth and blew it all to  
smithereens

My poor belated chastity fell foul of grown up games  
With false and lovely modesty I can recall the names I'll  
miss  
In the particle of me that cares for this  
I betrayed those little atoms with a kiss

And if you still don't like my song then you can just go  
to hell  
I don't care if I'm right or wrong or if my typewriter can  
spell  
But I cannot promise you I've said goodbye to childish  
things  
There's still some pretty insults left and such sport in  
threatening

My poor belated chastity fell foul of grown up games  
With false and lovely modesty I can recall the names I'll  
miss  
In the particle of me that cares for this  
I betrayed those little atoms with a kiss

And for the sake of clarity they are faith, hope and

charity  
In the particle of me that cares for this  
I betrayed those little atoms with a kiss

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