

## **Eric Bogle**

### **"Mirrors"**

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"MIRRORS"

-Eric Bogle

Children are born with trust in their eyes  
it's the first thing that we betray  
Children are born believing in magic  
it's the first thing we take away  
Fill them with doubt instead of magic  
and fear instead of trust  
And after awhile, they're just like us

On this earth there is a city  
in a rich green pleasant country  
Where they kill their children  
the children of the streets  
Free enterprise extermination  
why waste rehabilitation?  
a bullet is forever  
It's so final quick and cheap

And the despots all wear policemen's badges  
Kill to supplement their wages  
Earn their bloody bounty  
with the gun and the club and knife  
While profit-conscious businessmen  
Upright solid citizens  
Pay them a few cruzeiros  
for every murdered street kids life

(But they're children!)  
They're garbage on the streets  
(Oh the children!)  
They're beggars, whores and thieves  
(Oh pity the children!)  
Cry pity if you will,  
There's none on the streets  
of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil

To bless this piece of paradise

High on a hill stands Jesus Christ  
Gazing down with sightless eyes

at the daily blasphemy  
A mocking marble contradiction  
arms spread wide in benediction  
Suffer the little children,  
suffer them to come to me

And the despots cry "amen, amen"  
while they bow their knees to Bethlehem  
They spit in the face of humankind  
Turn our dreams to worthless dust  
And the future, as it's always done,  
stares down the barrel of a gun  
Which once more begs the question,  
When will the despots come for us?

(But they're children!)  
Have you seen their eyes?  
(Oh the children!)  
Hard and wary and street-wise  
(Oh pity the children!)  
There are no children here  
Only old eyes full of hunger  
and hate and hopeless fear

(But they're children!)  
Abandoned and forsaken  
(Oh the children!)  
Useless human flotsam  
(Oh pity the children!)  
And pity us as well  
For in our childrens' eyes  
We see mirrors of ourselves

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