

Bruce Cockburn

"Civilization And Its Discontents"

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I need a helmet to protect my head I need earphones to
hear what gets said I need a miracle to keep this little
thread from snapping

I know a lot about alienated man But we've all heard as
much about that as we can stand It's just what happens
when you let the time span catch you napping

Two forward and one back Blind fingers groping for
the right track What's to do when a stab and a pat on
the back look like the same thing?

Civilization and it's discontents When all's been said
and all the money spent Trying to beat the system of
the world's events Gets you nowhere.

Tired faces with the bus stop blues Man on a bench with
a blanket of news The young Jamaican joking with the
old Jew about women

So many people so lost you feel sorry But too much
pathos just makes you angry And even though I know
who loves me I'm not that much less lost

Black outline, sliding gray scale Subtle variations of
dark to pale Pearl sky raining light like hail, come on
and pierce me Raining light like a vision of the holy
grail, come on and pierce me

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and all the money spent Trying to beat the system of
the world's events Gets you nowhere.

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