

Incredible String Band

"Maya"

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Dust of the rivers does murmur and weep
Hard and sharp laughter that cuts to the bone
Ah, but every face within your face does show
Going gladly now to give himself his own

And twelve yellow willows shall fellow the shallows
Small waves and thunder be my pillow
Upon the gleaming water two swans that swim
And every place shall be my native home

The east gate like a fortress dissolve it away
The west gate like a prison, oh, come break it down
Island, I remember, living here
Wandering beneath the empty skies

In time her hair grew long and swept the ground
And seven blackbirds carried it out behind
It bore the holy imprint of her mind
As greenfoot slow, she moved among the seasons

The great man, the great man
Historians his memory
Artists, his senses, thinkers, his brain
Labourers, his growth, explorers, his limbs

And soldiers his death each second
And mystics his rebirth each second
Businessmen, his nervous system
No-hustle men his stomach

Astrologers, his balance, lovers, his loins
His skin it is all patchy
But soon will reach one glowing hue

God is his soul, infinity, his goal
The mystery, his source
And civilisation, he leaves behind
Opinions are his fingernails

Maya, Maya, all this world is but a play
Be thou the joyful player
Maya, Maya, all this world is but a play

Be thou the joyful player

The wanderer no sense does make
His eyes being tied in the true love's knot
The trees perceive his soul
Do not detain him long

Dear little animal, dark-eyed and small
Caring for your fur with pointed paws
This hawk of truth is swift and flies with a still cry
A small sweet meat to the eyes of night

Oh, dandelion be thou thine
Reflecting the sun in sexual glory
In ever changing tongues
The ever changing story

The book, man, bird, woman, serpent, sea, sun
Blessed, oh, blessed are they of the air
Your eyes, they are the eyes of the glad land
Ye twelve that will enter the seasons

The great ship, the ship of the world, long time sailing
Mariners, mariners, gather your skills
The great ship, the ship of the world, long time sailing
Mariners, mariners, gather your skills

Jesus and Hitler and Richard, the lion heart
Three kings and Moses and Queen Cleopatra
The Cobbler, the maiden, the mender and the maker
The sickener and the twitcher and the glad undertaker

The shepherd of willows
The harper and the archer
All sat down in one boat together
Troubled voyage in calm weather

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