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Jane Siberry "Burning Ship"

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Sixty thousand sheep on a burning ship Sailing across the deep blue sea And not a soul in sight And the boiler room caught fire And the men, the hired men They set off signals And nearby boats came by And they rescued them And off they went on their way To South America from Australia Sixty thousand sheep On the great, great blue sea And not a soul in sight For what purpose? For what purpose?

What great things happening on this planet Huge clusters of animals going up in smoke Two million cows in Great Britain Gone in one month Two million cows Who can separate the cows from the people?

Two hundred elephants found in a clearing Ghastly silence when they found them Pregnant cows, baby elephants And not a soul in sight In one fell swoop

And then the swoop of swallows As they gather in the fall Getting ready to prepare to start to begin To set upon their long, long flight At what moment, Lord At what precise moment Do they decide?

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