

## Karan Casey "Ballad Of Accounting"

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In the morning we built the city  
In the afternoon walked through its streets  
Evening saw us leaving  
We wandered through our days as if they would never  
end

All of us imagined we had endless time to spend  
We hardly saw the crossroads and small attention gave  
To the landmarks on the journey from the cradle to the  
grave  
Cradle to the grave, cradle to the grave

Did you learn to dream in the morning  
Abandon dreams in the afternoon, wait without a hope  
in the evening?  
Did you stand there in the traces and let them feed you  
lies?  
Did you trail along behind them wearing blinkers on  
your eyes?

Did you kiss the foot that kicked you?  
Did you thank them for their scorn?  
Did you ask for their forgiveness for the act of being  
born?  
Act of being born, act of being born

Did you alter the face of the city?  
Make any change in the world you found?  
Or did you observe all the warning?  
Did you read the trespass notice?  
Did you keep off the grass?

Did you shuffle off the pavement just to let your betters  
pass?  
Did you learn to keep your mouth shut?  
Were you seen and never heard?  
Did you learn to be obedient and jump to at a word?  
Jump to at a word, jump to at a word

And did you ever demand any answer?  
The who and the what and the reason why  
And did you ever question the setup?

And did you stand aside and let them choose  
While you took second best?

Did you let them skin the cream off and then give to  
you the rest?  
Did you settle for the shoddy and did you think it right  
To let them rob you right and left and never make a  
fight?  
And never make a fight, never make a fight

What did you learn in the morning?  
How much did you know in the afternoon?  
Were you content in the evening?  
And did they teach you how to question  
When you were at the school?

Did the factory help you grow? Were you the maker or  
the tool?  
Did the place where you were living enrich your life and  
then?  
Did you mix among the standing of all your fellow  
men?  
All your fellow men, all your fellow men, all your fellow  
men

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