

## **Cohen Leonard**

### **"Last Year's Man"**

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The rain falls down on last year's man  
That's a Jew's harp on the table that's a crayon in his  
hand  
And the corners of the blueprint are ruined since they  
rolled  
Far past the stems of thumbtacks that still throw  
shadows on the wood  
And the skylight is like skin for a drum I'll never mend  
And all the rain falls down amen on the works of last  
year's man

I met a lady, she was playing with her soldiers in the  
dark  
Oh, one by one she had to tell them that her name was  
Joan of Arc  
I was in that army, yes I stayed a little while  
I want to thank you, Joan of Arc for treating me so well  
And though I wear a uniform I was not born to fight  
All these wounded boys you lie beside goodnight, my  
friends, goodnight

I came upon a wedding that old families had contrived  
Bethlehem the bridegroom, Babylon the bride  
Great Babylon was naked, oh she stood there  
trembling for me  
And Bethlehem inflamed us both like the shy one at  
some orgy  
And when we fell together all our flesh was like a veil  
That I had to draw aside to see the serpent eat its tail

Some women wait for Jesus, and some women wait for  
Cain  
So I hang upon my altar and I hoist my Axe again  
And I take the one who finds me back to where it all  
began  
When Jesus was the honeymoon and Cain was just the  
man  
And we read from pleasant Bibles that are bound in  
blood and skin  
That the wilderness is gathering all its children back  
again

The rain falls down on last year's man  
An hour has gone by and he has not moved his hand  
But everything will happen if he only gives the word  
The lovers will rise up and the mountains touch the  
ground  
But the skylight is like skin for a drum I'll never mend  
And all the rain falls down amen on the works of last  
year's man

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