

## The Incredible String Band

### "Maya"

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The dust of the rivers does murmur and weep  
Hard and sharp laughter that cuts to the bone  
Ah, but ever 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 O 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 green-foot 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

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 sweetmeat to the eyes of night

O dandelion be thou thine  
Reflecting the sun in sexual glory  
In every-changing tongues  
The every-changing story

The book, man, bird, woman, serpent, sea, sun  
Blessed O blessed are they of the air  
Your eyes 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

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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