

## Sarah Slean

### "Compatriots"

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I saw my compatriots walking that nightfall  
Soccer games blaring from every cafe  
It's amazing how life can go somehow unnoticed  
Somehow so loud it rattles your brain  
My eyes digesting the infinite parcels  
Beauty and ugliness, matter and light  
Oh saint, oh sinner  
Oh ancient beginner  
Oh trembling river of life

Forgive me sir, I know not the magic words  
Is it the fever first and then the fire?

The neighbour above me is slamming his windows  
Insults bounce off me like peppercorn rain  
I'll answer him later, return the favour  
When I have perfected Parisian disdain  
The city is bristling, biting its fingers  
Bellies are full of the same butterflies  
Countdown the seconds in 25 languages  
Oh the millions of eyes

Forgive me sir, I know not the magic words  
Is it the fever first and then the fire?

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