

## **Ani Difranco "'tis of Thee"**

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'tis of thee

they caught the last poor man  
on a poor man's vacation  
they cuffed him and confiscated his stuff  
they dragged his black ass down to the station  
and said, ok, the streets are safe now  
all your pretty white children can come out and see  
spot run  
and they came out of their houses  
and they looked around  
but they didn't see no one

my country 'tis of thee  
to take swings at each other on the talkshow tv  
why don't you just go ahead and turn off the sun  
cuz we'll never live long enough  
to undo everything they've done to you  
undo everything they've done to you

above 96th street  
they're handing out smallpox blankets so people don't  
freeze  
the old dogs have got a new trick  
it's called criminalize the symptoms  
while you spread the disease  
and i hold on hard to something  
between my teeth when i'm sleeping  
i wake up and my jaw aches

and the earth is full of earthquakes

my country 'tis of thee  
to take swings at each other on the talkshow tv  
why don't you just go ahead and turn off the sun  
cuz we'll never live long enough  
to undo everything they've done to you  
undo everything they've done to you

they caught the last poor man  
flying away in a shiny red cape  
they took him down to the station

and they said, boy, you should've known better  
than to try to escape  
i ran away with the circus  
cuz there's still some honest work left for bearded  
ladies  
since they put everyone in jail  
except the cleavers and the brady's

my country 'tis of thee  
to take swings at each other on the talkshow tv  
why don't you just go ahead and turn off the sun  
cuz we'll never live long enough  
to undo everything they've done to you  
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