

To My Lordless Sons

To my lordless sons
These notes are for you
And i write this down fast
Because the truth is on the move
Now the ink it may smudge
Through the damp and sodden years
From here to the day
You're born

And as i scratch this down
On the back of my beer mat
Your ancestors dance the devil
Out of their workman's hats
There'll be nights like this for you
When you will shepherd all your dreams off
And the dancers weave around you
Where you sleep

Know that i first met your maker
Down at the travelling summer fair
Where we ran from stall to stall
And caught all the moonlight in our hair
Here comes that feeling much like pain
That wrings the daylight from your soul
When you burden one
With all the love you hold

You'll have nights like this, i can tell you
When the drink will turn you in
When the stars will fall like arrows
On the madness of all things
You might hate some for their kindness
You may well love some for their sins
On a thousand homeless journeys
Off the trail

And on your birthdays you'll dance
Down at the Old Town Inn
On the coastline you'll dig holes
And at the festivals you'll sing
Then someday you may have no choice
But to sleep sound in the ruins

Of your own body
In the doorway of this life

To my lordless sons
When your dust is long gone
And your names lay with the junk
Down in the basement of the gods
Don't say I never warned you
With this useless drunken song
That the ride is wild and perfect
And without you it goes on
The ride is wild for all
And without you it goes on