

HOMESICK

LYRICS BY JON GARVEY

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GIVE ME A SONG

By Jon Garvey ©1982

Give me a song
The years pass by me and they are away
My heart is lower than it's ever been before
I had a dream
But now that purpose seems so far away
Is this to be my life then? Is there nothing more?
 A man must needs have sown a seed
 Before he passes on unknown
 Something to stay beyond today
 For just a while
 Oh give me a song to sing, a word to bring
 A message for some silent bell to ring to
Give me a song, won't you give me a song?
Give me a song, won't you give me a song?

How many nights
Have I stayed awake upon my bed
Wondering what I must do to serve the Holy One?
How many times
Have I held my hand out to be led
Where I can carry on the work you have begun?
 And yet I know, within my soul
 A fire is smouldering unseen
 O send your rain of golden flame
 To make it blaze
 Oh give me a song to sing, a word to bring
 A message for some lonely soul to cling to
Give me a song, won't you give me a song?
Give me a song, won't you give me a song?

LET'S GO BACK

By Jon Garvey 2002

Come down to see me sometime
Oh my friend, it's been a long time
Since we sat in summer sunshine
Half a life ago.
Somehow the sun stopped shining
Putting out that silver lining
Now it seems the day's declining
Now the clouds are low.
Despite our good intentions, something died –
Along the way we turned to grey inside

Oh let's go back to what we had
We let this old world drive us mad
It turned our song into a sad refrain.
It's not too late to be a child
Though innocence has been defiled
I think I see us running wild again.

Oh let's go back to what we were
Before the bad witch spoke her curse
And tried to make the magic fade away.
It's not too late to be a man
I'll try to help you all I can
We'll still be young although our heads are grey.

WE DON'T WANT YOU

By Jan Garvey ©1980

Stolen from cradle at an early age
You turn your mind to the printed page
Nobody's angel and you're nobody's fool
They yell in your ears as they send you to school
 We don't want you, we don't need you any more

Ten years on and you've spent your days
Sweating and slaving to stay in the race
Go to your lessons like a little lamb
But you've got to leave 'cause you failed some exam
 We don't want you, we don't need you any more

Ten years more and you've done your best
Just to keep one jump ahead of the rest
Writing for every job in every place
Each letter you open just shouts in your face
 We don't want you, we don't need you any more

Travelling on through the pain and strife
You come to the end of your wasted life
They lower you down in an open grave
Your daughters and sons stand around and they wave
 We don't want you, we don't need you any more

UNBELIEVERS BELIEVE IN ANYTHING

By Jan Garvey ©2002

Old stories read to me
Upon my mother's knee
Told me the way to find my home
Those ways were hard but good
I followed where I could
And when I wandered believed it could find me

When those of stronger mind
Said there was no home to find
How could I doubt that it was true?
Day after day I sat
Feeling the world turn flat
And seeing heaven disappear from view

Unbelievers believe in anything
Anything at all
Promises from devils dressed as kings
Watching as we fall
And all I have to do
To make it all seem true
Is to tell myself I need no home at all

Blind watches brought to birth
What are our passions worth?
We're cells in Mother Earth's domain
The time for faith has passed
I've seen it in the stars
The rock of our uncertainty remains

Unbelievers believe in anything
Anything at all
Chimpanzees that talk, and stones that sing
Shopping in the mall
And all I have to do
To make my dreams come true
Is to make believe I have no dreams at all.

Unbelievers believe in anything
Anything at all
Magic spells and fairy girls with wings
Smiling on the wall
And all I have to do
To make my dreams come true
Is to make believe I have no dreams at all.

LOVE YOU NOW

By Jon Garvey ©2002

Well they told me today
You were leaving the city
That your feelings had changed
That you could not remain
 Of all the friends I've found
 You to me were dearest
 Mourning and remembering I love you now

I remember the time
When I first heard you singing
And the notes fell upon me
Like soft summer rain
 Of all the songs I've heard
 Yours to me was sweetest
 Mourning and remembering I love you now

Tu m'as donné un air
Qui adoucit ma vie
Mais comment puis-je chanter
Si tu n'est pas là ?
 Tu étais la plus chère
 Des toutes mes amies
 Of all the friends I've found
 You to me were dearest
 Mourning and remembering I love you now

MEMORIES OF YESTERDAYS

By Jon Garvey ©1976

Started on this Great Career
My brother Nige and me
Writing songs to celebrate
The Boy Scout Jamboree
For ages we were on the prowl
To find a rhyme for "Baden-Powell"
 Memories of yesterday
 They make me feel so sad
 But memories of your love
 Well, they're the best I ever had

I remember my first major work
A mighty Russian screed
I wrote it in A minor
With excursions into E

It even had D minor, too –
These were the only chords I knew
I put on my Russian overcoat
And smelly goatskin hat
I learned to play the balalaika
In fifteen minutes flat
I looked a bit like Doctor Who –
And sounded like a dalek, too
Memories of yesterday...

I dreamed of forming up a band
We'd play the local spots
We'd do "Puff the Magic Dragon"
At fifteen hundred watts
The line-up would be two bassoons
Jews harp and electric spoons
I thought I'd really made it
When at folk clubs I appeared
Singing Jimi Hendrix with me fingers in me ears
It didn't seem to go down well
But it made a change from Ralph McTell

Fame and fortune pass me by
Me strings will wear out soon
I've been performing thirty years
And I still can't sing in tune
I'd throw the towel in with a curse
If you lot weren't a darned sight worse
The audiences forget you
If they ever knew your name
But Jesus, you're still living here
And your friendship's just the same
And when my life's forgotten too
I'll sing eternal songs with you
Memories of yesterday...

HUNGRY FOR YOU

By Jon Garvey ©1985

Long ago I had a dream of heaven's light
Dreaming dies, visions fade, but hope abides
Oh how I need to know you, Lord, tonight
 I'm searching for you, Lord
 In everything I do
 I'm thirsty for your word
 I'm hungry for your hope
 Hungry for you

Take my hand, take my prayer, take my part
Take my doubting mind, take my divided heart
I should have let you take them from the start
 I'm searching for you, Lord...

Here I am, a vessel waiting to be filled
With your life, with your love and with your will
How can I rest while I am searching still?
 I'm searching for you, Lord...

THE ROAD TO FAR BEYOND

By Jon Garvey ©1980

Far away from here, as leaves did fall
Once I carved my name upon a wall
There it's written still, come good or ill
There, if stones could speak, I'd heed their call
Mortar, bricks and stones are built upon
Hopes and aspirations that were strong
In the soil we knew our roots once grew
Where then are we, now that they are gone?
 Don't cry, for we have all been this way
 Pain is a power we have for giving
 Don't cry, it is the price that we must pay
 For living on the road to far beyond

Far away from here the tide has turned
I can never leave, nor yet return
But our peace will come one distant some day
When the name of our true home we learn
 Don't cry, for we have all been this way
 Pain is a power we have for giving
 Don't cry, it is the price that we must pay
 For living on the road to far beyond

STILL THE WORLD IS SWEET

By Jon Garvey ©1979

Love is drowned in a sea of sorrow
When I look around
Peace cannot be found and joy is gone
Half this world have no tomorrow
Half have no today
They can find no way to carry on
Across the land restless-eyed I pass
By the towers of stone and glass
No silver in my hand
Until I stand, paralysed I stand aghast
Then on the hills I look
At last I find that
 Still the world is sweet
 Still the world is sweet
 It's good to stay
 And every day
 Is longer than it seems
 Time to sow you dreams
 And reap them too
 If only you
 Enjoy the world you meet
 Still the world is sweet

All the time that's gone
All the hours completely wasted
All the joys you've never tasted calling
Every winter long
Every night consumed in rage
At things that you can never change
At all

 Still the world is new
 Still the world is new
 It's good to grieve
 But more to believe
 The beauty all around you
 Motivating sounds
 Enthral your ears
 The sea of tears
 Becomes a sea of dew
 Still the world is new

GONE IS THE PAST

by Jon Garvey ©1984

Once I searched the world for what was true
Every road just led me back to you
And though I tried so hard to find some other way
There is no more reality
Than Jesus crucified for me

Gone is the fear and gone is the yearning
Gone are the lies I thought were true
Gone is the pride that kept me from learning
The only truth I need is you.

Now you've put your Spirit's mark on me
That's the sign your love will always be
And though the world is torn by hatred and dismay
It has no power to rise above
Your peaceful citadel of love

Gone is the loneliness I was hating
Gone is the life that once I knew
Gone is the past, eternity's waiting
The only life I have is you.

I BREATHE THE AIR

By Jon Garvey ©2003

Homeland, resting place, still my tears
Never far away, you're everywhere

Heaven calls me on, my home
Jesus, like the sun, shine on

Homeland of my own, I breathe the air
Sometimes feels as if I'm already there