

Planetary Democracy

An eco-communist anthem by Peter Brunette

1. Well, I walked in their streets, and I rode on their rails,
And I worked in their sweatshops, and I sat in their jails,
And I climbed up their mountain, but the view wasn't great—
Just miles and miles of their real estate.
Now, that's what you call suburban sprawl.
It's look-alike houses and a shoppin' mall
2. Where the merchants and bankers, always eager to please,
Are a-hawkin' their mortgages and their SUVs.
If you've got enough credit, you can have what you crave,
But you're sellin' your soul as their loyal wage slave.
Even Jesus, although he was friendly to strangers,
Never made friends with the money changers.
3. I don't need any logo 'cause I'm just wearin' jeans,
And you won't catch me talking to no robot machines.
But if you want to know what I truly despise,
It's the thing that they call their "free enterprise"—
Though if you will forgive me a vulgarism,
It's otherwise known as capitalism.
4. And capitalism means that some folks will thrive
While others can barely keep their children alive,
'Cause it's few hit the jackpot, though it's many that play,
And then even the lucky ones can see it all slip away.
When a game's been rigged to weed out the beginners,
The losers are bound to outnumber the winners.
5. But a world's gonna change once we get our fists
On the world that we built for the capitalists.
Every field and forest, every mill and mine,
Shall be held in common by all humankind,
And the wealth that was claimed by the bourgeoisie
Will belong to the plain folk like you and me.
6. From the rocky mountain to the valley floor,
From the old, bald prairie to the salty seashore,

We'll be whoopin' and hollerin', and then, just for a lark,
We'll declare the whole planet an international park
So that folks from all countries, wherever they roam,
Can pitch up their tents and feel right at home.

7. But if plants and animals get to feel a bit slighted,
Then let all of the species on this Earth be united.
In a planetary democracy,
Every bird and beast should be wild and free,
And the creepy-crawlies with more than a few legs
Should have the same rights as the folks that have two legs.
8. So when the donkeys bray and the barn owls screech,
They'll just be exercisin' their freedom of speech.
And the thunderstorm will come join in the choir,
Mixin' earth and air with his water and fire.
And the mustard seed and the maple flower
Will bud and bloom with their cosmic power.
9. Yes, and while they're so busy with their buddin' and bloomin',
Well, us two-legged primates can learn how to be human—
How to use that big brain, that opposable thumb,
To turn this little planet into the kingdom come
Where the lamb shall lie down next to the lion,
'Cause life's about more than just a-sellin' and buyin'.