

Future Visions – by Benjamin Zephaniah

When we rose up the land was bare,
when pure beginnings filled the air,
We stood upright and walked the same
when this great planet had no name.
We saw the land, we saw the seas,
and endless possibilities,
to speak of what existence is
we then developed languages.

We built houses from sticks and mud,
raised animals that chewed the cud.
We tilled the land and sowed the seeds,
we raised the crops, controlled the weeds,
we saw lightning when we gazed higher,
we saw light, and created fire.
We took all our skills and families
and created our communities.

With paintings, poems, verse and song
we made our spirits wise and strong.
With science, and reason, we were
enlightened;
our senses were truly heightened.
When we built ships and learned to sail
it's true to say we did prevail.
Our will and our imaginations
constructed jobs, cities, and nations.

We sought progress and nothing less,
just wealth, and stuff, and happiness.
Endless pleasures, endless fun,
until the day thy kingdom come,
we chased that rainbow's light to find
Utopia and peace of mind.
Our greatness and our unity,
could have created harmony.

But some just could not be content,
so empires came and empires went.
Nobody thought of air pollution
come the industrial revolution.
From beneath that land where we did toil
they took coal, and gold, and oil.
Developers clothed in well armed forces
robbed the Earth of its resources.

Beneath the land they started drilling.
Beneath the seas they started killing.
After the brave hearts learned to fly
they sucked the life out of the sky.
From way on high to well down under,
deceive and rob, pillage and plunder.
The so called civilised can't see
they're drunk on their hypocrisy.
But then a generation came

who said things just can't stay the same.
A generation who, it seems,
are full of hope, belief, and dreams.
They know that they can do much better
if they rise up and work together.
They love this Earth, and they have seen
a vision of it blue and green.

Unleash the righteous thinking mind.
Unleash the good within mankind.
Unleash the youth who could with care
rebuild our lives and clean the air.
Let us not dig for negatives -
let's reach out for alternatives.
Breathe in my people, save the whale,
touch the trees, and then... exhale.

Technology can make us stronger.
Good tech stuff can help us prosper.
Without greed we can still do trade.
Without greed we can get it made.
We can harness what nature gave us
without letting greed enslave us.
A modern future's possible,
and that future can be beautiful.

When we rose up the land was bare,
when pure beginnings filled the air.
So imagine what we can achieve
if we have hope, and we believe.
We can have our jobs, and keep our friends
and follow eco-friendly trends.
If we apply our minds then we'll
make it green, and keep it real.

So hand in hand let's do projects
with love for generation next.
We can fill the coming years
with progressive new ideas.
Love up the place, green up the space.
We're really not the master race.
There is no master but the child,
so let's be humble and **rewild**.

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