

# Kingdom Of Childhood

Joan Baez

The ship that sails the seven seas  
Has finally brought me to my knees  
It's not much to my liking  
The people standing on the rock  
Are innocent and they know not  
That the tide comes in  
Death rides it like a Viking

The mountains rise above the mist  
And the golden prince I've never kissed  
He may die tonight  
And why do I want to ride with  
The prince whose alleged horse is white?  
Because when we ride together  
Our lives are cloaked forever

Happiness is temporary  
Believe me, I know  
It can arrive as a shining crystal  
And leave as the melting snow  
Come all you lads and lasses  
The Kingdom of Childhood passes

Oh, but I am hardy in these years  
Or I'd have sunk down with my tears  
To the earth beneath my feet  
I want to endure the slings and arrows  
That Hamlet spoke about  
But harrowed,  
He was forced to a ragged defeat

There was a method to his madness  
But overcome by pride and sadness  
He did not endure  
Surely his death was a grave mistake  
How many deaths do we really calculate?  
Isn't it true, Lord  
Tragedies happen when you're bored?

Happiness is temporary  
Believe me, I know  
It can arrive as a shining crystal  
And leave as the melting snow  
Come all you lads and lasses  
The Kingdom of Childhood passes

You archangels, you have some nerve  
To watch all of this you are absurd  
You even have a choice  
Do you know all? I think you may  
And what is there for you to say  
But understand  
Why God took back your voice

Silence is golden, I believe  
And you are worth your weight  
In wreaths of purest gold

While we are here with debts and bets  
And aircraft carriers and jets  
I call out fruitlessly  
Give me an archangel for company

Happiness is temporary  
Believe me, I know  
It can arrive as a shining crystal  
And leave as the melting snow  
Come all you lads and lasses  
The Kingdom of Childhood passes

Me in the woods at the break of dawn  
The candles of the night still on  
The chimes ring from the hollow  
I too am worth my weight in gold  
But the fishmonger and I are old  
When the mint runs out  
Our real lives will follow

It was misfortune who woke you up  
To pour you the dregs from her broken cup  
Cast her aside  
The sunrise will appear with the mockingbird  
Who stays deep in the canyon and is heard  
Glorious in his song  
He cannot be wrong

Happiness is temporary  
Believe me, I know  
It can arrive as a shining crystal  
And leave as the melting snow  
Come all you lads and lasses  
The Kingdom of Childhood passes  
There's another one just beyond  
Act quickly before it's gone