

# Drink Up The River

Kathy Mar

I was sitting by a river when the thought occurred to me  
There are a hundred thousand rivers that we never even see  
They are the boundaries of all we know of truth and right and wrong  
And I have written some examples for you here within my song  
Some are bridged and some are forded, some are swollen from the rains  
Some are the ultimate result of all our joy and all our pains  
But when the rivers in your life are full and starting to wash down  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown

You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown!

And through our nation's history, her times of peace and war  
An overwhelming wave of misery has washed up on our shore  
They did not ask for any fortune, just a corner and a plate  
And how they shone with pride and honor as they made our country great  
But migrants now are deportees, and more are turned away  
We've forgotten it's the immigrants who made our fame today  
Our salvation is that flood: white, yellow, red, & black & brown  
We've got to drink up that river before we drown

You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown!

We are surrounded by technology, a flood that's rising still  
And we are praying we'll survive it or we're sure we never will  
And all our speed and skill and reach will soon be taking us to space  
It's a great day in the morning for our funny human race  
But we're frightened of our future and we're scared to move along  
So we scream that our technology is dangerous and wrong  
Back-to-nature cannot save us but the stars could be our crown  
If we can drink up this river before we drown

You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown!

There's a river of humanity that's passing through your life  
There is a sea of heavy sorrows and a stream of pain and strife  
There is a river of tomorrow that will carry you away  
And there's an ocean full of endless love to fill each passing day  
There are rivers all around you in the life you have to live  
All the rivers you've been given and the ones you have to give  
So sing out this final message to the people all around  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown

You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river,  
You've got to drink up the river before you drown!