

# Language is a Virus

Laurie Anderson

Paradise  
Is exactly like  
Where you are right now  
Only much much  
Better.

I saw this guy on the train  
And he seemed to have gotten stuck  
In one of those abstract trances.  
And he was going: "Ugh . . . Ugh . . . Ugh . . . "

And Fred said:  
I think he's in some kind of pain. I think it's a pain cry.  
And I said: "Pain cry?  
Then language is a virus."

Language! It's a virus!  
Language! It's a virus!

Well I was talking to a friend  
And I was saying:  
I wanted you.  
And I was looking for you.  
But I couldn't find you. I couldn't find you.  
And he said: Hey!  
Are you talking to me?  
Or are you just practicing  
For one of those performances of yours?  
Huh?

Language! It's a virus!  
Language! It's a virus!

He said: I had to write that letter to your mother  
And I had to tell the judge that it was you.  
And I had to sell the car and go to Florida.  
Because that's just my way of saying (It's a charm.)  
That I love you. And I (It's a job.)  
Had to call you at the crack of dawn (Why?)  
And list the times that I've been wrong.  
Cause that's just my way of saying  
That I'm sorry. (It's a job.)

Language! It's a virus!  
Language! It's a virus!

Paradise  
Is exactly like  
Where you are right now  
Only much much (It's a shipwreck  
)  
Better. (It's a job.)

You know? I don't believe there's such  
o thing as TV. I mean -  
They just keep showing you  
The same pictures over and over.

And when they talk they just make sounds  
That more or less synch up  
With their lips.  
That's what I think!

Language! It's a virus!  
Language! It's a virus!  
Language! It's a virus!

Well I dreamed there was an island  
That rose up from the sea.  
And everybody on the island  
Was somebody from TV.  
And there was a beautiful view  
But nobody could see.  
Cause everybody on the island  
Was saying: Look at me! Look at me!  
Look at me! Look at me!

Because they all lived on an island  
That rose up from the sea  
And everybody on the island  
Was somebody from TV.  
And there was a beautiful view  
But nobody could see.  
Cause everybody on the island  
Was screaming: Look at me! Look at me! Look at me!  
Look at me! Look at me! Why?

Paradise  
Is exactly like  
Where you are right now  
Only much much  
Better.