

# Carnival

Natalie Merchant

I've walked these streets  
A virtual stage  
It seemed to me  
Make up on their faces  
Actors took their  
Places next to me

I've walked these streets  
In a carnival  
Of sights to see  
All the cheap thrill seekers  
The vendors & the dealers  
They crowded around me

Have I been blind  
Have I been lost  
Inside myself and  
My own mind  
Hypnotized  
Mesmerized  
By what my eyes have seen?

I've walked these streets  
In a spectacle of wealth & poverty  
In the diamond market  
The scarlet welcome carpet  
That they just rolled out for me

I've walked these streets  
In the mad house asylum  
They can be  
Where a wild eyed misfit prophet  
On a traffic island stopped  
And he raved of saving me

Have I been blind  
Have I been lost  
Inside myself and  
My own mind  
Hypnotized  
Mesmerized  
By what my eyes have seen?

Have I been wrong  
Have I been wise  
To shut my eyes  
And play along  
Hypnotized  
Paralyzed  
By what my eyes have found  
By what my eyes have seen  
What they have seen?

Have I been blind  
Have I been lost  
Have I been wrong  
Have I been wise

Have I been strong  
Have I been  
Hypnotized  
Mesmerized  
By what my eyes have found  
In that great street carnival  
In that carnival?