

# Radio Baghdad

Patti Smith

Suffer not your neighbor's affliction  
Suffer not your neighbor's paralysis  
But extend your hand, extend your hand  
Lest you vanish in the city and be but a trace  
Just a vanished ghost and your legacy

All the things you knew, science, mathematics, thought  
Severely weakened like irrigation systems  
In the tired veins forming from the Tigris and Euphrates  
In the realm of peace, all the world revolved  
All the world revolved around a perfect circle

City of Baghdad, city of scholars  
Empirical humble center of the world  
City in ashes, city of Baghdad  
City of Baghdad, abrasive aloof

Oh, in Mesopotamia aloofness ran deep  
Deep in the veins of the great rivers  
That form the base of Eden  
And the tree the tree of knowledge  
Held up its arms to the sky

All the branches of knowledge  
All the branches of knowledge, cradling, cradling  
Civilization in the realm of peace  
All the world revolved around a perfect circle

Oh, Baghdad, center of the world  
City of ashes with its great mosques  
Erupting from the mouth of God, rising from the ashes  
Like a speckled bird, splayed against the mosaic sky

Oh, clouds around, we created the zero  
But we mean nothing to you, you would believe  
That we are just some mystical tale  
We are just a swollen belly that gave birth to Sindbad

Scheherazade, we gave birth  
Oh, oh, to the zero, the perfect number  
We invented the zero and we mean nothing to you  
Our children run through the streets  
And you sent your flames, your shooting stars

Shock and awe, shock and awe  
Like some, some imagined warrior production  
Twenty-first century, no chivalry involved  
No Bushido

Oh, the code of the West long gone  
Never been, where does it lie?  
You came, you came through the West  
Annihilated a people and you come to us  
But we are older than you, you come, you wanna

You wanna come and rob the cradle  
Of civilization and you read, yet you read

You read genesis, you read of the tree  
You read of the tree beget by God  
That raised its branches into the sky

Every branch of knowledge  
Of the cradle of civilization  
Of the banks of the Tigris and the Euphrates  
Oh, in Mesopotamia aloofness ran deep

The face of Eve turning, what sky did she see  
What garden beneath her feet, the one you drill  
You drill pulling the blood of the earth  
Little droplets of oil for bracelets, little jewels  
Sapphires, you make bracelets

Round your own world, we are weeping tears  
Rubies, we offer them to you  
We are just your Arabian nightmare  
We invented the zero but we mean nothing to you  
Your Arabian nightmare

City of stars, city of scholarship  
Science city of ideas, city of light, city  
City of ashes that the great Caliph  
Walked through his naked feet formed a circle

And they built a city, a perfect city of Baghdad  
In the realm of peace and all the world revolved  
And they invented and they mean nothing to you  
Nothing to you, nothing

Go to sleep, go to sleep my child  
Go to sleep and I'll sing you a lullaby  
A lullaby for our city, a lullaby of Baghdad  
Go to sleep, sleep my child  
Sleep, sleep, run, run

You sent your lights, your bombs  
You sent them down on our city, shock and awe  
Like some crazy TV show

They're robbing the cradle of civilization  
They're robbing the cradle of civilization  
They're robbing the cradle of civilization

Suffer not the paralysis of your neighbor  
Suffer not but extend your hand