

## Disparity by Design

Rise Against

All the way at the bottom  
Of these barrels we cry out  
So ashamed of our tears that  
We blame only ourselves  
That's when they win  
They keep us convinced  
To lift up our chins  
These playing fields are level  
We all have a chance  
With that they dismiss  
The fast lanes they rode  
In which access depends on who you know  
Or where you came from  
Whose daughter are you?  
Whose fortunate son?  
Were told  
To stick out our thumbs  
They feast from the linens  
while we settle for crumbs

Is this an over-reaching arm  
Or is this compassion?  
Is this a handout undeserved  
Or a just reparation?  
(a just reparation)

Away from the towers  
High above the ceiling tombs  
Tell themselves  
That they've earned this  
By working hard  
Or playing by the rules  
But this is only part true  
A dangerous trick  
Played on me and you  
And so like a practical joke  
We pulled on these bootstraps  
So hard that they broke

Is this an over-reaching arm  
Or is this compassion?  
Is this a handout undeserved  
Or a just reparation?

And like a single domino  
That falls while the rest stay vertical  
Were fed these empty fairy tales  
Or will you believe them?

And if there's a God  
You better pray  
That this sleeping giant never wakes

If we just take a step back  
A bigger picture we might view  
Perhaps the man in the gutter  
Is not so different from you

Come in out of the cold  
Forget all that you know  
Because there's always been room  
By the fire for you, oh  
Come in out of the cold

Will you believe them?  
Is this an over-reaching arm  
Or is this compassion?  
Is this a handout undeserved  
Or a just reparation?  
And like a single domino  
That falls while the rest stay vertical  
Were fed these empty fairy tales  
And I'm through believing