

# Every Bloody Emperor

Van der Graaf Generator

By this we are all sustained: a belief in human nature  
And in justice and parity...all we have is the faith to  
carry on.  
Imperceptible the change as our votes become mere  
gestures  
And our lords and masters determine to cast us  
In the roles of serfs and slaves  
In the new empire's name.  
Yes and every bloody emperor claims that freedom is his  
cause  
As he buffs up on his common touch as a get-out clause.  
Unto nations nations speak in the language of the  
gutter;  
Trading primetime insults the imperial impulse  
Extends across the screen.  
Truth's been beaten to its knees; the lies embed ad  
infinitem  
Till their repetition becomes a dictum  
We're traitors to disbelieve.  
With what impotence we grieve for the democratic  
process  
As our glorious leaders conspire to feed us  
The last dregs of imperious disdain  
In the new empire's name.  
Yes and every bloody emperor's got his hands up  
history's skirt  
As he poses for posterity over the fresh-dug dirt.  
Yes and every bloody emperor with his sickly rictus  
grin  
Talks his way out of nearly anything but the lie within  
Because every bloody emperor thinks his right to rule  
divine  
So he'll go spinning and spinning and spinning into his  
own decline.  
Imperceptible the change as one by one our voices  
falter  
And the double standards of propaganda  
Still all our righteous rage.  
By this we are all sustained: our belief in human  
nature.  
But our faith diminishes - close to the finish,  
We're only serfs and slaves  
As the empire decays.