

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
infinitum

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.