

# Nightwish, The Greatest Show on Earth

## 1.) Four Point Six

Archean horizon  
The first sunrise  
On a pristine Gaea  
Opus perfectum  
Somewhere there, us sleeping

After sleeping through a hundred million centuries  
We have finally opened our eyes on a sumptuous planet  
Sparkling with color, bountiful with life  
Within decades we must close our eyes again  
Isn't it a noble, an enlightened way of spending our brief time  
In the sun, to work at understanding the universe  
And how we have come to wake up in it?

## 2.) Life

The cosmic law of gravity  
Pulled the newborns around a fire  
A careless, cold infinity in every vast direction  
Lonely farer in the goldilocks zone  
She has a tale to tell  
From the stellar nursery into a carbon feast  
Enter Luca

The tapestry of chemistry  
There's a writing in the garden  
Leading us to the mother of all

We are one  
We are a universe  
Forebears of what will be  
Scions of the devonian sea  
Aeons pass  
Writing the tale of us all  
A day-to-day new opening  
For The Greatest Show on Earth

Ion channels welcoming the outside world  
to the stuff of stars  
Bedding the tree of a biological holy  
Enter life

We are here to care for the garden  
The wonder of birth  
of every Form Most Beautiful

## 3.) The Toolmaker

After a billion years  
The show is still here  
Not a single one of your father died young  
The handy travelers  
Out of Africa  
Little Lucy of the afar

Gave birth to fantasy  
to idolatry  
to self-destructive weaponry  
Enter the God of Gaps  
Deep within the past  
Atavistic dread of the hunted

Enter ionia, the cradle of thought  
The architecture of understanding  
The human lust to feel so exceptional  
to rule the Earth

Hunger for shiny rocks  
For giant mushroom clouds  
The will to do just as you'd be done by  
Enter history, the grand finale  
Enter ratkind

Man, he took his time in the sun  
Had a dream to understand  
A single grain of sand  
He gave birth to poetry  
But one day'll cease to be  
Greet the last light of the library

WE WERE HERE!  
WE WERE HERE!  
WE WERE HERE!  
WE WERE HERE!

#### 4.) The Understanding

We are going to die, and that makes us the lucky ones  
Most people are never going to die because  
They are never going to be born  
The potential people who could have been  
Here in my place but who will in fact never see  
The light of day outnumber the sand grains of sahara  
Certainly those unborn ghosts include  
Greater poets than keats, scientists greater than newton

We know this because the set of possible people  
Allowed by our dna so massively exceeds the set  
Of actual people. In the teeth of those stupefying  
Odds it is you and I, in our ordinariness, that are here  
We privileged few, who won the lottery of birth against all odds  
How dare we whine at our inevitable return to that prior  
State from which the vast majority have never stirred?

#### 5.) Sea-Worn Driftwood

There is grandeur in this view of life  
With its several powers, having been  
Originally breathed into a few forms or into one  
And that whilst this planet has gone cycling on  
According to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple  
A beginning endless forms most beautiful  
And most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.