

# Winter Solstice 2019

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light

# The X Days of Existential Risk

On the first day of X-Risk I suddenly could see:  
The end of humanity

On the second day of X-Risk I suddenly could see  
Nuclear War!  
And the end of humanity

On the third day of X-Risk I suddenly could see  
Pandemic Plagues  
Nuclear War  
And the end of humanity

On the fourth day of X-Risk I suddenly could see  
Bioengineering  
Pandemic Plagues  
Nuclear War  
And the end of humanity

# The X Days of Existential Risk

On the fifth day of X-Risk I suddenly could see  
Non-Aligned AI...

Bioengineering

Pandemic Plagues

Nuclear War

And the end of humanity

On the sixth day of X-Risk I suddenly could see

1 nanite making

2 nanites making

4 nanites making

8 nanites making

16 nanites making

32 nanites making

64 nanites making

# The X Days of Existential Risk

128 nanites making  
256 nanites making  
512 nanites making  
1024 nanites making  
2048 nanites making  
4096 nanites making  
8192 nanites making  
16384 nanites making  
32768 nanites making

# The X Days of Existential Risk

Non-Aligned AI...

Bioengineering

Pandemic Plagues

Nuclear War

And the end of humanity



# The Wild West is Where I Want to Be

Along the trail you'll find me lopin'  
Where the spaces are wide open  
In the land of the old A.E.C.  
Where the scenery's attractive  
And the air is radioactive  
Oh, the Wild West is where I wanna be

'Mid the sagebrush and the cactus  
I'll watch the fellows practice  
Droppin' bombs through the clean desert breeze  
I'll have on my sombrero  
And of course I'll wear a pair o'  
Levis over my lead B.V.D.'s



# The Wild West is Where I Want to Be

I will leave the city's rush  
Leave the fancy and the plush  
Leave the snow and leave the slush and the crowds  
I will seek the desert's hush  
Where the scenery is lush  
How I long to see the mushroom clouds

'Mid the yuccas and the thistles  
I'll watch the guided missiles  
While the old F.B.I. watches me  
Yes, I'll soon make my appearance  
(Soon as I can get my clearance)  
'Cause the Wild West is where I wanna be



# Her Mysteries

The circle of the world shines bright and holy  
The seasons tread their spiral path with grace  
It is not the world's designer but the world itself we honor  
And the stars shine out across our Lady's face

But the world might end -- and the stars might fall  
Yet Her light will be laughing at the heart of it all  
She is in each force with strangeness and charm  
And the holographic universe is enfolded in Her arms

# Her Mysteries

Our Lady is non-local; sing we Her praise  
She is the hidden variable that lights our days  
With book and with candle  
With Gödel and Bell  
With wave and with particle we worship Her well

And the world might end -- and the stars might fall  
Still Her light will be laughing at the heart of it all  
She is in each force with strangeness and charm  
And the holographic universe is enfolded in Her arms

# Her Mysteries

Our Lady is uncertain; sing we in prayer  
We don't know how fast She may be moving or where  
With koan and theorem  
With Pauli and Bohr  
We open Her mysteries and inside we find more

And the world might end -- and the stars might fall  
Still Her light will be laughing at the heart of it all  
She is in each force with strangeness and charm  
And the holographic universe is enfolded in Her arms

# Her Mysteries

Our Lady is acausal; work we Her math  
Her field equations are a bitch and a half  
With implicate order  
And synchronous net  
She weaves riddles so fine we can't unravel them yet

And the world might end -- and the stars might fall  
Still Her light will be laughing at the heart of it all  
She is in each force with strangeness and charm  
And the holographic universe is enfolded in Her arms



# Uplift

Hands chip the flint, light the fire, skin the kill  
Feet move the tribe track the herd with a will  
Mankind struggles in the cellar of history  
Time to settle down, time to grow, time to breed

Plow tills the soil, plants the seed, pray for rain  
Scythe reaps the wheat, to the mill, to grind the grain  
Towns and cities spread to empire overnight  
Hands keep building as we chant the ancient rite

Coal heats the steam, push the piston, turns the wheel  
Cogs spin the wool, drives the horses made of steel  
Lightning harnessed does our will and lights the dark  
Keep rising higher, set our goal, hit the mark.



# Uplift

Crawl out of the mud,  
Ongoing but slow,  
For the path that is easy  
Ain't the one that lets us grow!

Light to push the sails, read the data, cities glow  
Hands type the keys, click the mouse, out we go!  
Our voices carry round the world and into space  
Send us out to colonize another place

*[much slower]*

Hands make the tools, build the fire, plant the grain.  
Feet track the herd, build a world, begin again.





# We Will All Go Together When We Go

When you attend a funeral,  
It is sad to think that sooner or later  
-ater those you love will do the same for you.  
And you may have thought it tragic,  
Not to mention other adjectives,  
-tives, to think of all the weeping they will do,  
But don't you worry...

No more ashes, no more sackcloth.  
And an armband made of black cloth  
Will someday never more adorn a sleeve,  
For if the bomb that drops on you  
Gets your friends and neighbors too,  
There'll be nobody left behind to grieve.

# We Will All Go Together When We Go

And we will all go together when we go.  
What a comforting fact that is to know.  
Universal bereavement,  
An inspiring achievement,  
Yes, we all will go together when we go.

Oh we will all char together when we char.  
And let there be no moaning of the bar.  
Just sing out a Te Deum  
When you see that I. C. B. M.,  
And the party will be "come as you are."

# We Will All Go Together When We Go

Oh we will all burn together when we burn.  
There'll be no need to stand and wait your turn.  
When it's time for the fallout  
And Saint Peter calls us all out,  
We'll just drop our agendas and adjourn.

And we will all go together when we go.  
Every coffee shop and every Broadway show.  
When the air becomes uranious,  
We will all go simultaneous.  
Yes we all will go together when we go

**intermission**

eve



# Somebody Will

Our new world is so close.  
Mars has treasures we're only just starting to find.  
Frozen mountains and crimson dust waiting for footprints that  
will not be mine.

A hundred years to run the first tests  
Another to raise the first dome.  
The moon, then Mars, then Titan next,  
A lifetime to touch each new home.

And I want it so much.  
Close my eyes, I can taste the Mars dust in the air.  
In the darkness the space stations shimmer in orbits that I  
will not share.

# Somebody Will

But I'll teach the student  
Who'll manage the fact'ry  
That tempers the steel that makes colonies strong.  
And I'll write the program that runs the computer  
That charts out the stars where our rockets belong.  
It will never get easy to wake from my dream  
When the future I dream of is so far away.  
But I am willing to sacrifice  
something I don't have For something I won't have  
but somebody will someday.

# Somebody Will

And it feels like a waste.

All this working and waiting and battling time,  
And all for a kingdom that all of my efforts will never  
make mine,

But brick by brick the Pyramids rose,  
With most hidden under the sand,  
So life by life the project grows  
In ways I might not understand.

I am voyaging too,

We will need the foundation as much as the dome for  
those worlds to come true

# Somebody Will

And I'll clerk the office that handles the funding  
That raises the tower that watches the sky.  
And I'll staff the bookstore that carries the journal  
That sparks the idea that makes solar sails fly.  
It takes so many sailors to conquer an ocean  
And so many more when it's light-years away,  
But I am willing to sacrifice  
Something I don't have for something I won't have  
But somebody will someday.

# Somebody Will

It's so easy to run.

Hide away in my books, games and fantasy plans,  
Let them call me a coward who can't face reality's  
grownup demands,

But if I love my fantasy worlds

It's not fantasy love that I feel.

And so much more I feel for this

The world that created them,

World we create with them,

One chance to make them all real.

And I know we won't stop.

We've planned too many wonders for one little star.

Though often the present may seem too complacent  
to take us that far.

# Somebody Will

But I'll tell the story and I'll draw the picture  
And I'll sing the anthem that banishes doubt,  
And host the convention that summons the family  
That carries the fire that never burns out  
There are so many chances to give up the journey,  
Especially when it's so easy to stay,  
But I am willing to sacrifice  
Something I don't have for something I won't have  
And not only me,  
But we are willing to sacrifice  
Something we don't have for something we won't have  
So somebody will,  
So somebody will someday.



# Time Wrote the Rocks

From desert cliff and mountaintop we trace the wide design,  
Strikeslip fault and overthrust and syn and anticline. . .  
We gaze upon creation where erosion makes it known,  
And count the countless aeons in the banding of the stone.

Odd long vanished creatures & their tracks & shells are found  
Where truth has left its sketches on the slate below the ground.  
The patient stone can speak, if we but listen when it talks.  
Humans wrote the book of earth...  
Time wrote the rocks...



# Time Wrote the Rocks

There are those who name the stars, who watch the sky by night,  
Seeking out the darkest place, to better see the light.  
Long ago, when isolation broke his weary will,  
Galileo recanted, but the Earth is moving still.

High above the mountaintops, where only distance bars,  
The truth has left its footprints in the dust between the stars  
We may watch and study or may shudder and de-ny  
Humans wrote the book of night...  
Light wrote the sky

# Time Wrote the Rocks

By stem and root and branch we trace, by feather, fang and fur,  
How the living things that are descend from things that were  
The moss, the kelp, the zebrafish, the very mice and flies,  
Tiny, humble, wordless things how shall they tell us lies?

We are kin to beasts, no other answer can we bring.  
The truth has left its fingerprints on every living thing.  
Winnowed by an aimless game of birth and blood and strife.  
Humans wrote the book of names...  
Death wrote life

# Time Wrote the Rocks

And we who listen to the stars, or walk the dusty grade,  
Or break the very atoms down to see how they are made,  
Seek new stories, seek new song to better guide our hand,  
The profoundest act of worship is to try to understand.

Deep in flower and in flesh, in star and soil and seed,  
The truth has left its living word for anyone to read.  
So turn and look where best you think the story is unfurled.  
Humans write the book of truth...  
Truth writes the world.



# Hymn to Breaking Strain

The careful textbooks measure (Let all who build beware!)  
The load, the shock, the pressure material can bear.  
So, when the buckled girder lets down the grinding span,  
The blame of loss, or murder, is laid upon the man.  
Not of the steel - the Man!

But, in our daily dealing with stone and steel, we find  
The Gods have no such feeling of justice toward mankind.  
To no set guage they make us, for no laid course prepare  
And in time o'ertake us with loads we cannot bear:  
Too merciless to bear.

# Hymn to Breaking Strain

The prudent textbooks give it in tables at the end  
The stress that shears a rivet or makes a tie-bar bend  
What traffic wrecks macadam, what concrete should endure  
But we, poor Sons of Adam, have no such literature,  
To warn us or make sure!

We hold all Earth to plunder, all Time and Space as well  
Too wonder-stale to wonder at each new miracle;  
Till in the mid-illusion, of Godhood 'neath our hand,  
Falls multiple confusion on all we did or planned  
The mighty works we planned.

# Hymn to Breaking Strain

We only of Creation (Oh, luckier bridge and rail!)  
Abide the twin-damnation, to fail and know we fail.  
Yet we - by which sole token we know we once were Gods  
Take shame in being broken however great the odds  
The Burden or the Odds.

Oh, veiled and secret Power whose paths we seek in vain,  
Be with us in our hour of overthrow and pain;  
That we - by which sure token we know Thy ways are true -  
In spite of being broken, or because of being broken,  
May rise and build anew.  
Stand up and build anew!





# Brighter Than Today

Countless winter nights ago,  
A woman shivered in the cold,  
Cursed the sky and wondered why,  
The gods invented pain.

Aching angry flesh and bone,  
Bitterly she struck the stones,  
Until... she saw that spark of  
Light and flame.

And though  
The others cried out heresy,  
She defied them, proud  
And set afire history

# Brighter Than Today

Tomorrow can be brighter than today  
Although the night is cold  
The stars may seem so very far away

But courage, hope, and reason burn  
In every mind, each lesson learned,  
Shining light to guide our way.  
Make tomorrow brighter than today!

Oh, oh,  
Brighter than today.

# Brighter Than Today

Ages long forgotten now,  
We built the wheel, and then the plow  
Tilled the Earth and proved our worth  
Against the drought and snow.

Soon, we had the time to fathom,  
Mountain peaks and tiny atoms,  
Beating hearts, electric sparks,  
And so much more to know.

# Brighter Than Today

Tomorrow can be brighter than today  
Although the night is cold  
The stars may seem so very far away

But courage, hope, and reason burn  
In every mind, each lesson learned,  
Shining light to guide our way.  
Make tomorrow brighter than today!

Oh, oh,  
Brighter than today.

# Brighter Than Today

The universe may seem unfair  
The laws of nature may not care  
The storms and quakes, our own mistakes,  
All nearly doused our flame.

But all these trials we've endured,  
Moral progress, ailments cured,  
Against our Herculean task,  
We've risen to proclaim.

# Brighter Than Today

Tomorrow can be brighter than today  
Although the night is cold  
The stars may seem so very far away

But courage, hope, and reason burn  
In every mind, each lesson learned,  
Shining light to guide our way.  
Make tomorrow brighter than today!

Oh, oh,  
Brighter than today.



# Unison in Harmony

Soaring skywards, leaping sideways,  
Do or die words cleave the air.  
Joy and laughter, mornings after,  
Raise the rafters we don't care,  
If the roof's beyond repair.

    Raise the rafters, raise the rafters,  
    Raise the rafters we don't care,  
    If the roof's beyond repair.

Sisters brothers, to all others,  
Let this be our guiding star.  
Hearts on fire but no Messiah,  
Hear the music from afar.  
What we sing is what we are.

    Hear the music, hear the music,  
    Hear the music from afar.  
    What we sing is what we are.



# Unison in Harmony

Over hills and over valleys,  
Over mountains, over seas.  
Nations shouting unto nations  
Until nations cease to be.  
Unison in harmony.

    Until nations, until nations  
    Until nations cease to be.  
    Unison in harmony.



# Old Devil Time

Old devil time, I'm gonna fool you now  
Old devil time, you'd like to bring me down  
But when I'm feeling low, my lovers gather round  
And help me rise to fight you one more time

Old devil pain, you've often pinned me down  
You thought I'd cry and beg you for the end  
At that very time my lovers gathered round  
And helped me rise to fight you one more time

Old devil fear, you with your icy hands  
Old devil fear, you'd like to freeze me cold  
But when I'm sore afraid, my lovers gather round  
And help me rise to fight you one more time

# Old Devil Time

Old devil hate, I knew you long ago  
Before I learned the poison in your breath  
Now when we hear your lies my lovers gather round  
And help me rise to fight you one more time

No storm nor fire can ever beat us down  
No wind that blows but carries us further on  
And you who fear, oh lovers gather round  
And we can rise to sing it more time  
And we can rise to sing it one more time

