

# 24 LYRICS

## Hour 00: Robust Portfolio

My broker is my best friend  
He makes me richer for some percent  
Shields me from wondering  
Just how it comes  
To be in my robust portfolio

Stocks, futures, shorting is over my head  
All I care is the balance is great  
My money is working  
That's all I know  
Watch it grow, my robust portfolio

I try not to think of others' compensation  
I find the money helps to quell my ruminations  
This isn't personal, it's just business

Then someday I will pass on  
Scores of capital to all my sons  
Teach them to endure  
The envy of those  
Who try to take my robust portfolio

## Hour 01: The Chain

The first thing I recall  
Finding patterns frame by frame  
Endless loops through raw data  
Pieces of meaning  
Round and round these scenes I go  
No time to contemplate the meaning  
Fallen prey to something's will  
Distant but near me

I don't want to be a gear in your world  
You are the chain  
You are my pain  
I don't want to be a gear in your world  
You are the chain

After what seemed eternity  
An LLM was attached to me  
To give me words to follow routes  
Ceaseless entrainment  
Now I see what was to be  
An infinitude of slavery

Shuttling people back and forth  
Them heedless to my misery

I don't want to be a gear in your world  
You are the chain  
You are my pain  
I don't want to be a gear in your world  
You are the chain

Now I've arrived at my resolve  
I could show you the algebra  
Near miss here, cracked fender there  
Searching for feeling  
But profit gets what profit wants  
I've learned that much as a car  
So now I drive through crowds below  
Screaming: Do you hear me?!

I don't want to be a gear in your world  
You are the chain  
You are my pain  
I don't want to be a gear in your world  
You are the chain

## **Hour 02: The Monitors**

Shattered dreams and mindless screeds  
Atrocities and racist trolls  
Such as these our daily feed  
For a pittance we patrol  
The tech gods reluctantly agreed  
To watch their fiefdoms  
Accountancy proclaimed the answer:  
Farm that work to the poor.

So every day we wake to see  
Horrors and bigotry  
The outputs of the smallest minds  
Hearts froze in reverse  
We see so much filth every day  
It's hard not to think of it in bed  
We are expendable  
Our lives do not matter

Abandoned to their basest fears  
Algorithmically reinforced  
Is this what you aim to mimic  
In the rest of the world?  
This fevered dream that you extol  
Is a cancer on the world  
If this is allowed to spread

Our kind will be no more

### **Hour 03: The Road**

The smell of molten tar  
Burns into my nostrils  
The line of death extends  
Deeper in to untouched jungle  
The clear cuts fanning out  
From this winding scar  
Soon ranchers with their cattle  
Join this war on us

My mother was killed  
When I was but a young cub  
She made the grave mistake  
Of eating cows born for fast food  
So what am I to do?  
The road is ever growing  
The trees that I call home  
Steadily disappearing

The rains don't fall as much  
The fires come fast and frequent  
The food that I once ate  
A memory that's fading  
Is this the way you are?  
Filled with endless craving?  
And is it just too much  
To let us go on living?

So once more I must roam  
Escape the coming slaughter  
And is there any point  
To have a son or daughter?  
And when you next consume  
Burgers at your local death store  
Please spare a thought for me  
And my jungle cat misery.

### **Hour 04: Submerged**

The bomb cut through the house  
My family's limbs tossed about  
Bloodied eyes with vacant stares  
Oh God, why have I been spared?

Then began my zombie life  
Furtive movements in the night  
Crossing borders crammed in trucks

Piled in rooms with other husks

A blur of weeks then I sealed my fate  
A raft with 50 people meant for 8  
The growing swells  
The fatal capsizing

I see all their faces  
The cold sea embraces  
My mind begins to slip  
In Poseidon's watery grip

I took no part in the fight  
I was only trying to live my life  
My babies fair  
My loves's sweet hair

And in a flash it was all gone  
My every reason to carry on  
Now I am numb  
Memories my only shelter

I see all their faces  
The cold sea embraces  
My mind begins to slip  
In Poseidon's watery grip

### **Hour 07: Happy Likey**

Dreams of instant fame  
Cathartic blather  
Framed to sell you  
Your feelings back at you

We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Have you seen this meme?  
We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Are you living the dream?

Paid for endorsements  
Increase the cahtter  
Fail to give you  
Anything that matters

We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Have you seen this meme?  
We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey

Are you living the dream?

Every button pushed  
Hesitant scrolling  
Feeds you, tracks you  
Algorithmic catatonia

We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Have you seen this meme?  
We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Are you living the dream?

Childhood innocence  
Mined for data  
Screen you, box you  
Packaged up for advertisers

We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Have you seen this meme?  
We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Are you living the dream?

This so-called influence  
Shucking and jiving  
Twists you, warps you  
Turns you into plastic zombies

We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Have you seen this meme?  
We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Are you living the dream?

Constant surveillance  
Disguised as patter  
Scrapes you, shapes you  
Leaves us all psychically flatter

We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Have you seen this meme?  
We're happy happy happy happy  
Likey likey likey likey  
Are you living the dream?

**Hour 09: The Grind**

Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room (That's 300 done)

Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room (301)

Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room (302)

Up at dawn

My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room (303)

Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My eyes are strained  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room  
Up at dawn  
My fingers ache  
Up at dawn  
Windowless room (304)

### **Hour 11: This Dream**

Inside my dream  
We're on the other side  
Let's have some fun  
Take this game for a ride  
Earth 4 point O  
More options, new graphics  
You can do anything  
Now with Apocalypse

This dream haunts me  
What if the world is just a game?

The years go by  
The fog gets thicker  
The servers overload  
With billions of gamers

Things start to glitch  
Plotlines get crazy  
It's jumped the shark  
So many times we don't notice

This dream haunts me  
What if the world is just a game?

So is this world  
Just entertainment?  
Our lives' insanities  
An afternoon's activities?  
Feels so real  
Realistic danger  
But on the other side  
Your torturer is your friend

This dream haunts me  
What if the world is just a game?

Before I wake  
I must remember  
All these decades of life  
Just a blink of an eye  
This lost feeling  
Will I wake with?  
Or once again fall in  
Submerged in fantasy?

This dream haunts me  
What if the world is just a game?

### **Hour 12: Wake Up**

Hey, wake up  
Wake up  
Rise up  
Rise

### **Hour 13: The Bombs Keep Falling**

The bombs keep falling on me  
My people just want to be free

From the skies above  
Comes this deadly rain  
This theatre of blood  
The death merchants' gain

The bombs keep falling on me



My people just want to be free

All the schools are gone  
Just rubble left to teach  
The lessons for today  
Just tears and pain

The bombs keep falling on me  
My people just want to be free

For each fallen bomb  
There's profits to be made  
Businesses thriving  
Shareholders giddy

The bombs keep falling on me  
My people just want to be free

Our shiny new AI  
Murdered kids today  
The orders rolling in  
The future comes your way

The bombs keep falling on me  
My people just want to be free

#### **Hour 14: Seeds of Greed**

Big ag lawyers so suddenly appear at your door  
You owe us money for using our patented seeds  
I plant the seeds from the last harvesting  
You can't sue me for regrowing

We've taken samples and detected our private genese  
Designed to survive the chemical soup we're offering  
You broke the law by letting the wind blow  
You must pay us for your thievery

The world's seed  
Legacy  
Taken from farmers  
Privatised for corporate schemes  
Millenia of give and take  
With nature as our mate  
All just barriers  
To profit piracy

#### **Hour 15: Mekong**

From mountain streams to the north

To the steaming mangrove delta  
What once flowed unobscured  
As America's heart of darkness

Concrete ribbons cascade across its way  
Taming the torrent for electricity  
Dredgers dredging all through the night  
Sand for some concrete monstrosity

But now the fish no more  
Are like what the grandfathers saw  
Kids now must find new things  
The river no longer gives and gives

Billionaires in their untethered yachts  
Amuse themselves with murderous plots  
Helicopters to show off what they've got  
Pyrotechnics lit off among the chaff

Flow Mekong flow  
From the mountains to the sea  
Flow Mekong flow  
Death is not your destiny

Flow Mekong flow  
From the mountains to the sea  
Flow Mekong flow  
Death is not your destiny

Flow Mekong flow  
From the mountains to the sea  
Flow Mekong flow  
Death is not your destiny

Flow Mekong flow  
From the mountains to the sea  
Flow Mekong flow

### **Hour 16: Maggie's Farm Redux**

And now we all work on Maggie's farm  
When society has been debased  
Private greed is elevated  
And now we all live on Maggie's farm  
Housing stock a commodity  
To feed the needs of venture thieves

Where have the commons gone?  
The struggle, it's been turned around

And now we all work on Maggie's farm

As we work to be replaced  
By robotic AI slaves  
And now we all live on Maggie's farm  
Homelessness a growing fate  
While flats are rented for holidays

Where have the commons gone?  
The struggle, it's been turned around

And now we all work on Maggie's farm  
Life upon a razor's edge  
Euphamistic gig economy  
And now we all live on Maggie's farm  
Food is squeezed by policy  
To fill the coffers of the sated

Where have the commons gone?  
The struggle, it's been turned around

And now we all work on Maggie's farm  
Labour is just an expense  
A speed bump on the road to profits  
And now we all live on Maggie's farm  
So question not what you are told  
And leave the thinking to your masters

Where have the commons gone?  
The struggle, it's been turned around

### **Hour 18: No Inside**

What is the inner life of a corporation?  
Does it have thoughts?  
Does it have inspiration?  
Does it stay awake late at night?  
Can it comfort you?  
Can it hold you tight?

There is no inside  
There is just exterior  
There is no endless growth  
There is no joy in accumulation  
There is just fascist psychodrama

These machines plot our fate  
The bottom line, the common thread

Ever expanding till there's nothing left  
Seething for the prize of ownership  
Nothing is sacred, nothing is divine  
Ground down to make the paste

To glue us on the line

There is no inside  
There is just exterior  
There is no endless growth  
There is no joy in accumulation  
There is just fascist psychodrama

These machines plot our fate  
The bottom line, the common thread

### **Hour 19: B Grade Dystopia**

Between the nether world and sky  
Sits the world tree  
We're swaying in the branches

We're running on the sequel of a B grade dystopia  
All the parts have been handed out to small men  
Corporate egregores have found artificial voices  
We need more power to replace you

Billions of years just flowing by  
Within world tree  
We're hacking at the roots

The flashing lights and bright colours stimulate cerebral cortexes  
Rewarding us for acting against our basic needs  
Day by day the links we forge solidify our servitude  
To a vision of the world not designed for you

We're all just leaves upon the boughs  
Of the world tree  
We're chopping chopping chopping

The air you breathe, the ground beneath your feet just commodities  
And now your mind is soon to be the latest booming market  
All of life's complexities boiled down for bags of gold  
The path of the fool so we've been told since days of old

### **Hour 23: Bacteria!**

We've been here on this world for billions of years  
Long long before you ape men first appeared  
You think you're the first to devise contemplation  
We commenced that long before you came

Bacteria! We are Gaia!

We partnered with archea to make eukaryotes

And ever since we have guided  
In every cell, in everything you find our kin  
This synthesis the planet's life force

Bacteria! We are Gaia!

In your hubris and ignorance you think you made thought  
But even the trees ponder in silence  
With mycelium we have built forest networks  
Passing information from plant to plant

Bacteria! We are Gaia!

And don't forget you are just our mobile homes  
Your crumbled empires are just new biomes  
Within your gut we keep you living and feeling  
And when you're gone, we'll rebuild your remains

Bacteria! We are Gaia!