A sepia-toned photograph of a person walking through a snowy field. The person is on the left, leaving a trail of footprints. In the background, a single, bare tree stands against a pale sky. The image has a vintage, aged appearance with some water damage or staining at the bottom.

hiram ring

HOME

ALL I WANT

I traveled all around the world, sailed the seven seas,
always searching for that missing part of me.

I took myself to foreign lands, walked on crowded streets,
to learn the colors of the human tapestry.

And somewhere on the mountaintop that scraped the evening sky
I heard the lonely howling wind echoing my soul with its cry,
singin' why, why, why, oh why..

(Cause) All I want is a hand to hold,
a place to come in from the cold night air,
someone to welcome me home.
Maybe what I need is you.

I took the quickest ship I found, over the clouds we flew,
and the days and nights were only sides of you.

We landed on the runway and the rain it seemed like dew,
for in the crowd yours was the only face I knew.

And like a dear familiar place, seen for the first time,
I drank deep of your water and it tasted to me like wine,
oh sweet, sweet love of mine..

(Cause) All I want is a hand to hold,
a place to come in from the cold night air,
someone to welcome me home.
Maybe what I need is you.

I know we will have trouble, yes it's true - me and you
but we'll always be together, no matter what we go through.
I am yours, you are mine - eternity will right the wrongs of time... but for now..

All I want is a hand to hold,
a place to come in from the cold night air,
someone to welcome me home.
Maybe what I need is you.



hold me

Take me away from these bright lights, they make shadows on my skin.
Expose the emptiness inside that gathers all within.
If I could I'd crawl into a hole to hide myself,
but then there would be nothing where this flesh and bone had fallen.

Hold me, 'cause I can't keep these tears from falling

Hold me, 'cause I can't find my way home

Hold me, and if it seems that I should fall away, won't you please bring me in.

I've got a hole so deep inside, it's like a bottomless pit.

I tried everything that I could find, but nothing seems to fit.

Can you take my hand and lead me far away from this mess?

Is there anywhere that I can go and not be nothing?

Hold me, 'cause I can't keep these tears from falling

Hold me, 'cause I can't find my way home

Hold me, and if it seems that I should fall away, won't you please bring me in.



VIRGINIA

I left my heart in old Virginia, where the hills so gently roll.
I left my heart there in Virginia, but I'm goin' to my home.

I traveled far along the byways with the law behind I know,
but when I reached those blue ridge mountains I had nowhere left to go.

Then beside me stood a maiden, her skin was fairer than the light,
her lips were soft, her eyes shone brightly, her hair was darker than the night.

Oh my love, her skin was fairer than the light.
Oh my love, her hair was darker, darker than the night.

She told me that I must go with her, and then she gave to me her hand.
I took it and I held it tightly, it was the fairest in the land.

So she took me to her bower, to the place she called her home,
and there she offered me some poison - I gladly drank til it was gone.

When I awoke, standing before me were the lawman and his kin,
but beside me lay the maiden, and oh how fair still was her skin.

Oh my love, her skin was fairer than the light!
Oh my love, her hair was darker, darker than the night!

Now I go to face the gallows along the roads that lead me home,
but my heart is in Virginia where the hills so gently roll.

How far?

How far does the polar bear go, when he makes his way out in the snow?
There's a light on the north pole that's calling me — goodbye for now.

How far does the satellite go, when it makes its way outside the globe?
There's a light on the moon that is calling me — goodbye for now.

There's a light on the north pole, a light on the moon,
they're all just reflections, reflections of you.


How far does the little fish flee, from the things that he really does need?
There's a home in the ocean that's calling me — goodbye for now.

How far does the little bird fly, when it makes its way up in the sky?
There's a home in a tree that is calling me — goodbye for now.

There's a home in the ocean, a home in a tree,
they're all just extensions, of who you must be.

And I know your face, and I know the place
where you are, where you are.





I've Got a Girl

I've got a girl, crazy 'bout me,
She must see things I cannot see,
Only know when I hold her tight,
is when the world seems right,
and there is no place I'd rather be.



IF I HELD YOU

If I held you in my arms,
I don't know what I'd do
'cause I've been waiting for so long
to know you love me too
Your eyes say that your heart is mine,
your lips say otherwise
I can't tell which to give more weight,
the truth or the lies

I dreamed last night
that I held you in my arms
all was right, as you smiled
and took my face between your hands
but waking up was hard to do -
as I woke I knew you were not beside me

You told me when we parted ways
that you could not be true
But through the miles and years
that pass I'm only wanting you.
I've been without love for so long,
there's one thing that I know
if I could hold you in my arms,
I'd never let you go.

GREET THE DAWN

Taste these words upon my tongue - I'm not sure where they come from.
The deepest dark of heart is stone - mine it 'til you bring me home.

Feel the wind upon my cheek - I do not know what I seek.
Sail to catch the eventide - find me in the seabird's cry.

The world is wide, the world is long, we only live to greet the dawn.
The world is high, the world is deep, we only live when not asleep.

See the lines upon my back - can I sense the things I lack.
Every day is marked with toil - know the richness of this soil.

The world is wide, the world is long, we only live to greet the dawn.
The world is high, the world is deep, we only live when not asleep.

Smell the rain upon my face - there is peace within this place.
Salt streams touch a father's heart - this is where our ways must part.

The world is wide, the world is long, we only live to greet the dawn.
The world is high, the world is deep, we only live when not asleep.

Won't you take a white stone for your name?
An answer for the pain that's still burning deep inside.
Won't you join the saints around the throne?
An answer to the groan that is the spirit's wordless cry.

The world is wide, the world is long, we sing the everlasting song!
The world is high, the world is deep, we are alive when not asleep.



THIS LAMP

This lamp is an old one, it doesn't shine so bright.
The metal's lost its luster, but it warms up the night
and lights the way for you to come back home.

The candle is a flicker of the flame it once was.
The gleam is just a glimmer, a memory of love
that held the stars in their place and waits for you to come back home.

And I haven't moved since that day,
I haven't moved since that day.

The doorbell still is broken, the door has no lock.
The welcome of the hearthstone opens to your gentle knock.
The homely house is ready, for you to come back home.

And I haven't moved since that day,
I haven't moved since that day,
I haven't moved since that day,
I haven't moved since that day,
I have been waiting for you to come back home.



MY LORD

My Lord is a donkey-ridin' man
My Lord is a donkey-ridin' man
When my Lord comes to town, He doesn't need a crown
My Lord is a donkey-ridin' man

My Lord is a heavy-drinkin' man
My Lord is a heavy-drinkin' man
He said "Lord please take this cup, but if You fill it I'll drink every drop"
My Lord is a heavy-drinkin' man

My Lord is the pure and righteous Lamb
My Lord is the pure and righteous Lamb
Guiltless and perfect He died to set guilty sinners free
My Lord is the pure and righteous Lamb

My Lord breaks the chains of sin and death
My Lord breaks the chains of sin and death
He died once and for all, then He rose to fulfill the law
My Lord breaks the chains of sin and death

My Lord holds the whole world in His hands
My Lord holds the whole world in His hands
He held it on the cross, and he bears the scars that prove the cost
My Lord holds the whole world in His hands

life

I've got angels in my pocket, I've got demons in my head,
they want to take me down
I've got wisdom in a locket, full of all the things you said,
can they help me now?
and This rat race keeps on eatin' the bread that I need to survive

I've got ghosts pullin' my shoelace, I've got spirits in my tongue,
they want to steer me wrong
I've got visions of a new place where we all sing a new song,
can they keep me on?
This rat race keeps on eatin' the bread that I need to survive.

I don't just wanna survive - I wanna live, live, live this life
I've got wisdom in my pocket, I've got visions of a new place
Give me life, life, life
Give me life, life, life

You've got baggage in a suitcase, You've got voices in your soul,
don't wanna let you go
You've got limitless horizons, full of destinations
more than you can know
and This rat race keeps on eatin' the bread that you need to survive

I don't just wanna survive - I wanna live, live, live this life
I've got wisdom in my pocket, I've got visions of a new place
Give me life, life, life
Give me life, life, life

Lay your burdens down - take, oh take this life
milk and honey flow - more than you can know
Take this bread, drink this wine - take life, life, life.

TWO TREES



Father's a builder, he built his house of wood.
And when he finished, he said that it was good.
And he made there a garden, planted there a seed
which in time would grow to a tree.

Father's a farmer, he sowed his field with grain.
He started out early, knowing it would rain.
And the rain promised harvest, growth where he had tilled,
so he'd need more workers for the field.

And the tree grew high
and the grain grew tall
and we know that pride comes before the fall.
And the tree grew tall
and the grain grew high
and when winter comes some things have to die.
And a storm came in and brought down the rotting tree,
so that dust was all that it would ever be.

Father's a gardener, he picked a single fruit.
The brightest and sweetest, where on the tree it grew.
When its flesh he had tasted, he placed it in the ground,
where it grew, so that hope may be found.

And the tree grew high
and the grass grew tall
and the springtime came to renew it all.
And the tree grew tall
and the grass grew high
and the summer came with a warming sigh.
And the heat it came to wither life away,
but the tree covered all with its shade.

Father's a builder, he builds with living wood.

Zion's Walls

Hardscrabble soil and I'm diggin' for answers,
hands in my pockets and mind full of concerns.
How can I see with my life all around me?
Walk these same streets 'til I know I'm surrounded.

Just like a hobo who sees a bright gleam —
would he know it's a jewel, if he'd seen what I've seen?

Man on the corner is talkin' to strangers,
his cup is to full, unaware of the dangers.
What would they do if the goblet was emptied?
Roos for the pearls in the spaces of the city.

Just like a widow who's lost her last coin,
straining to reach to where it has gone.
You know if you find it there, all will be won,
but you need a helping hand — your strength is done.

I see a place where the streets can't stop shinin',
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls)
smiles and there's laughter, there's no need for cryin'.
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls)
Joy without sorrow, no fear for tomorrow! (God's gonna build up Zion's walls.)
'Cause everyone's already been through the fire. (God's gonna build up Zion's walls.)

God's gonna build up Zion's walls,
God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

Hiram - guitars, vocals, shaker, tambourine, percussion, glockenspiel, synths, bass
(1, 2, 7, 9)

Ross Kucks - drums

Matthew Monticchio - organ, rhodes piano (10)

Yolanda Mott - cello

Sophia Englar - violin

Neli Atiga - keys (1)

Howie Tan - bass (8, 10)

ENCS choir (9, 12) is: Mike Blanding, Angeline Tjoandi, Nick Boyer, Tina Atiga, Neli Atiga, Marisol Maniano, Jackie Owens, Christina Cuna, Katrina Lopez, Alarice Thio, David Brett, Jon Friedman, Gay Dela Cerna, Mike Dela Cerna, Mei-Jian Keow, Cherry Apas

Guitars, vocals, shaker and tambourine engineering by Reuben Raman, Mandric Tan, and Sikai Goh, recorded at SoundFarm Production Studios (Singapore).

Strings engineering by Anthony S. Guyer, recorded at Forgotten Genre Productions (Lancaster, PA).

other engineering by Hiram Ring:

Drums recorded at Crossway church (Lancaster, PA).

Organ and rhodes recorded at Second City church (Harrisburg, PA).

Percussion recorded at Silver Pond (Brackney, PA).

Bass recorded at 934 Jurong West (Singapore) and Jowai, Meghalaya (India).

Keys and ENCS choir recorded at 50 Macpherson (Singapore).

Glockenspiel and various percussion recorded at Bishan 8 (Singapore).

Mixed by Hiram Ring at Bishan 8 (Singapore).

Mastered by Mark Peteritas, Working Man's Productions (Lancaster, PA).

1. All I Want
2. Hold Me
3. Virginia
4. How Far
5. I've Got a Girl
6. If I Hold You
7. Greet the Dawn
8. This Lamp
9. My Lord
10. Life
11. Two Trees
12. Zion's Walls