American Buddhist Songbook

Nathaniel Needle

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All Beings, One Body

Nathaniel Needle



^{*} When sung as a round, second part begin here.

ALL BEINGS, ONE BODY

If all beings have one body, then we can't leave anyone out Can't do without anybody, no we can't leave anyone out Never you, never me, no we can't leave anyone out Never you, never me, no we can't leave anyone out

Bailin' Out Water

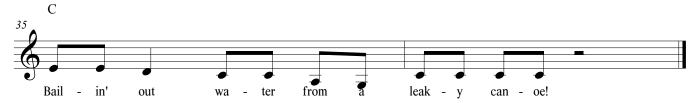


Bailin' Out Water

G7

Bail - in' out wa - ter

Bail - in' out wa - ter



BAILIN' OUT WATER

Chorus:

Bailin' out water from a leaky canoe Bailin' out water from a leaky canoe Nothin' to get, just one thing to do Bailin' out water from a leaky canoe

When we're sittin' on the cushion
We don't wonder when the bell will chime
When we're sittin' on the cushion
We abandon every notion of time, reason or rhyme
If the thoughts and the feelings start a-leakin' on in,
We jump right back to bailin' water again, and we're (CHORUS)

Now now matter what we do, We keep the faith that our canoe can't sink And every drop of water that comes by We don't have to drink, don't you think If the thoughts... (etc.)

When we're cruisin' down the river, We don't worry 'bout how dry we can get 'Cause as long as we keep bailin', Seems the water never gets us wet, wanna bet If the thoguhts... (etc.)

Bottom of the Ocean

Nathaniel Needle



Bottom of the Ocean



BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN

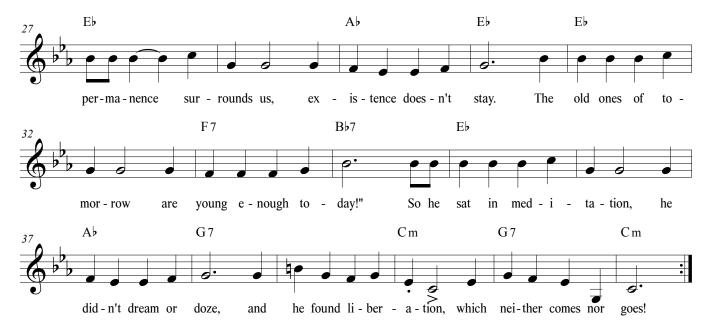
At the bottom of the ocean
Only moonlight everywhere
How the moonlight got down there
Is something of a mystery
At the bottom of the ocean
Penetrating moonbeams go
Isn't any room to know
A future or a history

You might think it's cold down there
You might think the pressure's strong
But it's free as summer air
If you only take the moon along
At the bottom of the ocean
You can't see or feel a thing
Only penetrating questioning
Keeping you alive down there
Penetrating moonbeams go
Deep as devotion
To the bottom of the ocean
Making moonlight everywhere

Charioteer Song



Charioteer Song



THE CHARIOTEER SONG

Oh, Buddha rode out from his palace one day Where his father, the king, kept him out of the way Didn't want him to see any suffering or pain, But Buddha made his charioteer explain He said, "Channa!"

"Why is that woman's face all wrinkled?" (3x)
His charioteer replied,
"That's an OLD woman with her face all wrinkled." (3x)
And Buddha's eyese opened wide!
He said,

"Impermanence surrounds us, existence doesn't stay.
The old ones of tomorrow are young enough today!"
So he sat in meditation, he didn't dream or doze
And he found liberation, which neither comes nor goes.

2nd Verse: Why is that man all pale and sweaty? (1st line)
That's a SICK man all pale and sweaty (3rd line)

2nd Chorus: The sick ones of tomorrow are well enough today! (2nd line)

3rd Verse: Why has that man got sheets around him? (1st line)
That's a DEAD man with sheets around him (3rd line)

3rd Chorus: The dead ones of tomorrow are live enough today! (3rd line)

4th Verse: Who is that man so calm and peaceful? (1st line)
That's a HOLY man so calm and peaceful (3rd line)

4th Chorus: The Buddhas of tomorrow are just like us today! (2nd line)

Dharma Moon

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Dharma Moon



DHARMA MOON

Shining in the evening, shining in the morning, There you are, my precious Dharma moon!

Dharma moon, you illumine everyone in sight Plants and animals reflect your light Even at night, that's right You're never far, my precious Dharma moon When my concentration's not so good You keep shining like you understood That if I could, I would (Let's forget the should.)

It's so plain that I can't gain or lose
Even my defilements I can use,
They're just my karma, precious Dharma moon
Sing a meditation song,
It's a song without a tune,
Dharma moon

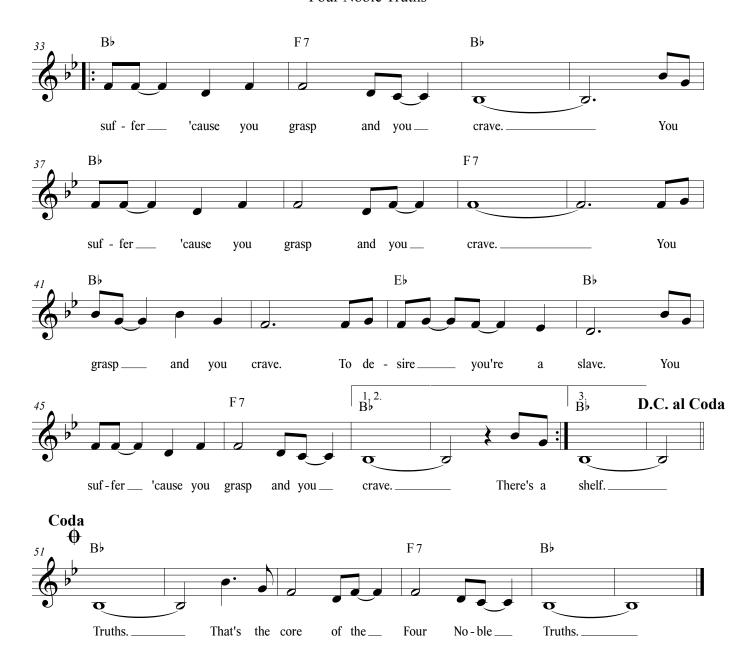
Dharma moon, you illumine everyone in sight Plants and animals reflect your light Even at night, that's right You're never far, my precious Dharma moon When my concentration's not so good You keep shining like you understood That if I could, I would (Let's forget the should.)

It's so plain that I can't gain or lose
Even my defilements I can use,
They're just my karma, precious Dharma moon
Sing a meditation song,
It's a song without a tune,
Dharma- ev'ry little star knows I love my precious Dharma moon!

Four Noble Truths

Nathaniel Needle **Gentle Rock Lullaby (Moderato)** Вβ F 7 ВЬ will sing Four No - ble_ Truths. will you the__ ВЬ F 7 sing you the ___ Four No - ble___ Truths. You're Вβ ЕЬ Вβ fright-ened, child, you well you're Bud-dha That's the say, a ny - way. To Coda F 7 $\mathbf{\Phi}$ the ____ Four No - ble____ Truths. core of ВЬ F 7 $\mathrm{B}\flat$ Q Q Ev - 'ry ____ bo dy suf - fers___ just like ___ you. F 7 Ev - 'ry bo dy suf - fers ___ just like ___ you. _ They Вβ suf - fer ___ just like you. That's what sen - tient be - ings do. Вβ F7 Вβ \mathbf{o} Ev - 'ry bo suf - fers ___ just like__ You dy you._ 10

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FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS

I will sing you the four noble truths (repeat) You're frightened, child, you say, Well you're Buddha anyway That's the core of the four noble truths.

Everybody suffers just like you (repeat) They suffer just like you That's what sentient beings do Everybody suffers just like you

You suffer 'cause you grasp and you crave (repeat) You grasp and you crave To desire you're a slave You suffer 'cause you grasp and you crave There's a way out of suffering for good (repeat) Out of suffering for good Realize your Buddhahood There's a way out of suffering for good

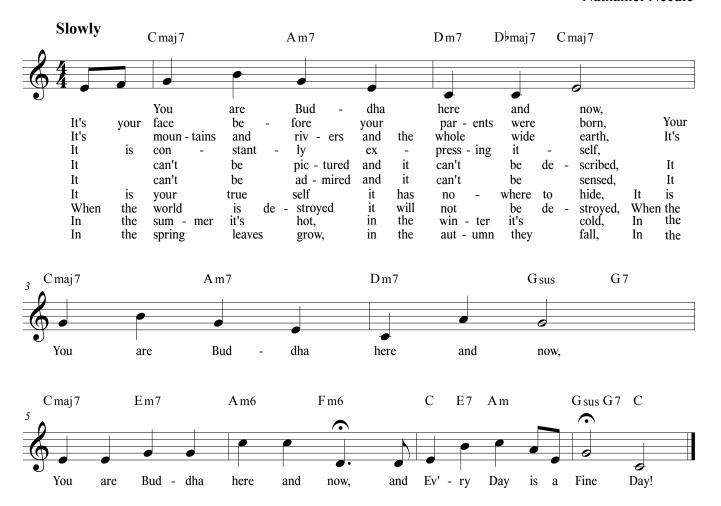
The way is the eightfold path of peace (repeat) With the eightfold path of peace, May all beings be at ease
The way is the eightfold path of peace

Don't believe it 'cause you read it off a shelf (repeat) You can't get it off a shelf, You must test it for yourself, Don't believe it 'cause you read it off a shelf

(repeat first verse)

Every Day is a Fine Day

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EVERY DAY IS A FINE DAY

You are Buddha here and now You are Buddha here and now You are Buddha here and now And every day is a fine day

It's your face before your parents were born [etc.]
It's mountains and rivers and the whole wide earth [etc.]
It is constantly expressing itself [etc.]
It can't be pictured and it can't be described [etc.]
It can't be admired and it can't be sensed [etc.]
It is your true self, it has nowhere to hide [etc.]
When the world is destroyed, it will not be destroyed [etc.]
In the summer it's hot, in the winter it's cold [etc.]
In the spring leaves grow, in the autumn they fall [etc.]

Give

Nathaniel Needle



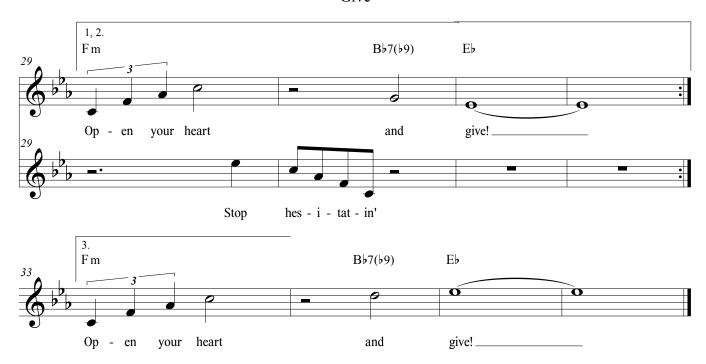
it

some lat

i - tude

^{**}Counter-melody is only included on 2nd & 3rd repeat





GIVE

Give (come on and give now)

When you are lonely (when you are lonely)

Give (come on and give)

When you're feeling low (when you're feeling so low just)

Give (why don't you give)

With a heart full of gratitude (that ain't no platitude, give it some latitude)

Your attitude means more than you know (means more than you know so why don't you)

Give (come on and give now)

Like the sky gives the rainbow (sky gives the rainbow)

Give (come on and give)

Like the rain gives the dew (like the rain gives the dew)

Why waste the years (why?)

Wrapped up in fears? (why?)

You've only this moment to live (only this moment so)

Open your heart (stop hesitatin')

And give!

Happy Birthday, Buddha!

Nathaniel Needle



^{*}any animate or inanimate thing can be substituted with each chorus: a rock, a microwave oven, an astronaut

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BUDDHA

Does a dog have buddha-nature, buddha-nature? [BE A DOG]
Happy Birthday Buddha! (3 times)
Buddha's birthday's always every day
Buddha's birthday's always every day
Even now, even now (be silent, then suddenly shout NOW!)
[then pick new question: Does a tree have buddha-nature, etc...]

Happy Birthday, Buddha!

Nathaniel Needle



^{*}any animate or inanimate thing can be substituted with each chorus: a rock, a microwave oven, an astronaut

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BUDDHA

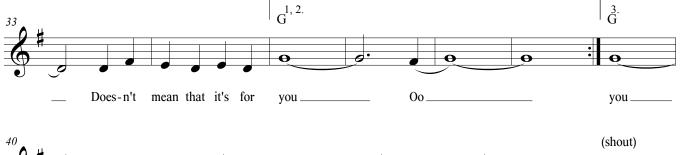
Does a dog have buddha-nature, buddha-nature? [BE A DOG]
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Even now, even now (be silent, then suddenly shout NOW!)
[then pick new question: Does a tree have buddha-nature, etc...]

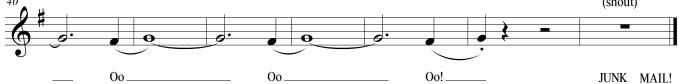
Junk Mail

Nathaniel Needle

Swing or Rock n' Roll Rhythm







(*Second and third verse rhythms vary slightly to fit the lyrics.)

JUNK MAIL

I'm too skinny, I'm too fat Nose too big, chest too flat Too much this, not enough that Buy another brand new hat Bo one loves me but my cat

Say! How did all this material mosey into my mental mailbox? It's JUNK MAIL, stick it in the garbage pail You don't have to hold it or unfold it, Don't have to read it or repeat it, Don't have to swallow it or follow it, Play the host, not the guest, Come on baby, just give it a rest, You know, just because they found a clever way To put your name on it Doesn't mean that it's for you!

Work too hard, don't work enough Belly too soft, beard too tough Guys like me we have it rough How come Joe has so much stuff? I don't have to take your guff (Say! etc.)

Boys like Sheila better than me Mom's too strict, Dad's too free Guess I'll fail geometry Gotta go watch MTV What will I grow up to be? (Say! etc.)

Kwanseum

Nathaniel Needle



Kwanseum



Kwanseum 3



KWANSEUM

se

um.

Kwan

All day, all night, all day, all night While walking, while standing, while sitting, while lying down Beyond wrong, beyond right, beyond darkness, beyond light No sound, no sight, all day, all night

Kwan

se

um.

Let Go

Words by Dogen (1200-1253)

Reggae beat - slow



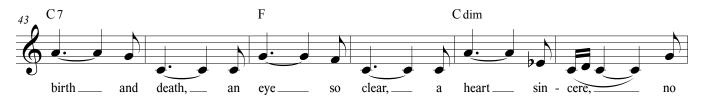
LET GO (words by Zen Master Dogen)

- 1. To study Buddhism is to study the self, to study the self, to study the self To study Buddhism is to study the self Let go... (repeats 11 times)
- 2. To study the self is to forget the self (etc.)
- 3. To forget the self is to abandon body and mind (etc.)
- 4. To abandon body and mind is to be enlightened by all things (etc.)
- 5. To be enlightened by all things is [CLAP-CLAP-CLAP-CLAP] (etc.)

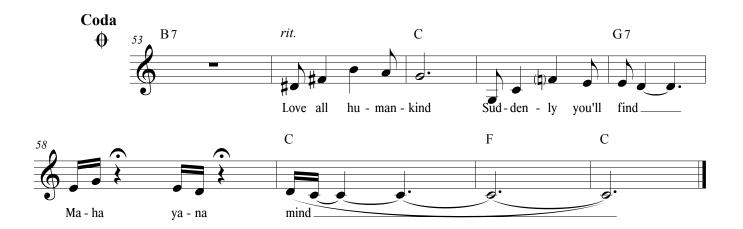
Mahayana Mind



Mahayana Mind







MAHAYANA MIND

Mahayana mind
Like waves upon the ocean blue
Mem'ries and emotions too,
just float on through, just float on through
Mahayana mind
Waiting patiently
Let your cares unwind, suddenly you'll find
Mahayana mind

Mahayana mind
Like raindrops from a summer sky
Fantasies and lullabies
Dry up and die, dry up and die
Mahyana mind
Staying constantly
Leave yourself behind, suddenly you'll find
Mahayana mind

Deep in each and every breath
Beyond the reach of birth and death
An eye so clear, a heart sincere
No notion of Nirvana
Just
Mahayana mind
Dancing all the mountains down
Chanting in a countless round
Of soundless sound, of soundless sound
Mahyana mind
May the world be free
Love all humankind, suddenly you'll find
Mahayana mind

Oneness of Life

Nathaniel Needle



Oneness of Life



ONENESS OF LIFE

Now it's one thing, respecting a boundary
Savoring our different flavors, improves the recipe
But when I hurt, seems like I build a wall
You're a voodoo doll inside my mind, not really you at all
Then I lift my face to hear the clouds and sunlight speak
And I can see you as you are, vulnerable and weak
A looking glass, reflecting a mystery
Where no one stands alone, originally

CHORUS

Believing in the Oneness of Life
Relinquishing my anger and jealousy
Believing in the Oneness of Life
Dissolving the illusion of you and me
Believing in the Oneness of Life
Delivering equanimity
Believing in the Oneness, the Oneness of Life

Now it's one thing, protecting integrity
Letting everyone upset me, distorts reality
But when I'm wrong, I huff and puff and bluff
I'm a shining knight inside my mind, hey,
Watch me strut my stuff
Then I lift my face to hear the clouds and sunlight speak
And I can see me as I am, vulnerable and weak
A microscope, inspecting an endless sea,
Where no one makes mistakes, originally (CHORUS)

Pull the Arrow Right Out

Nathaniel Needle



Pull the Arrow Right Out



There was

a

Now there are

30

Pull the Arrow Right Out



PULL THE ARROW RIGHT OUT

There was a fellow strolling through the meadow
When all at once he was stricken by a poisoned arrow
He would not let the doctor remove it
Instead he started chirping like a crazy sparrow
Shouting "who shot the arrow", and "why did he shoot it?",
And "what kind of bow did he use?"
Well he kept asking questions, and he would have died,
But the doctor quickly replied, what he said was,

CHORUS

Pull the arrow right out, pull the arrow right out
Stop your agonizin' and your criticizin',
And your analyzin' what it's all about
All you might explain with your discriminatin' brain
Won't nullify that feelin' of doubt
So if ya had enough o' dat crazy sufferin'
[2nd chorus: Stop ruminatin', start meditatin', and]
Pull the arrow right out (everybody now)
Pull the arrow right out (4x)
What's it like to die (pull the arrow)
But I wanna know why (pull the arrow)
What kind of fool am I? (pull the arrow)
Pull the arrow out

There was a woman who lost her lover
Something anybody might find distressing
Her friends all attempted to console her, but
Five eyars later, she was still obsessing
Crying "why did he leave me?", and "how could he do it?"
And "who is he with right now?"
Well, she'd be asking questions till this very day,
But her friends convinced her this way, what they said was
(CHORUS)

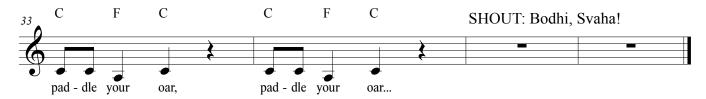
Now there are people at the University
Who might think this song is anti-intellectual
The point is not to disparage cognition, but
To admit there are matters where it's ineffectual
So if you like electronics, or plate tectonics
Then a little knowledge is nice
But if you want liberation, or emancipation
Just take the Buddha's advice, what he said was
(CHORUS)

Oh the way is narrow, so cut to the marrow, And pull the arrow right out!

Paramita Song



Paramita Song



*rhythm can vary slightly to fit lyrics in subsequent verses

THE PARAMITA SONG

Chorus:

Why don't you try a little paramita
There's nothin' sweeter than a little paramita
I know ya wanna git to that other shore
But don't think about it, just paddle your oar...
Bodhi.....svaha!

Now the first paramita is Dana It means give it away even when you don't wanna Don't allow attachments to shrink your space Just spill your being all over the place That's Dana paramita for sure (CHORUS)

Now the second paramita is Sila In life's situations be a lover and a healer Tell the truth and be everyone's amigo Just as if you didn't have an ego That's Sila paramita for sure (CHORUS)

Now the fourth paramita is Virya
The exertion of a falling leaf can steer ya
Every breath, every step that's taken
Is an opportunity to awaken
That's Virya paramita for sure (CHORUS)

Now the fifth paramita is Dhyana
Face that wall and shout out "Hana!"
Stick with your practice, keep your concentration tauter
And let those thoughts flow through you like water
That's Dhyana paramita for sure (CHORUS)

Now the sixth paramita is Prajna If you think you're wise, you're full of bologna But when you experience "I DON'T KNOW", Then natural wisdom is everywhere you go That's Prajna paramita for sure (CHORUS)

Respect Polka

Nathaniel Needle



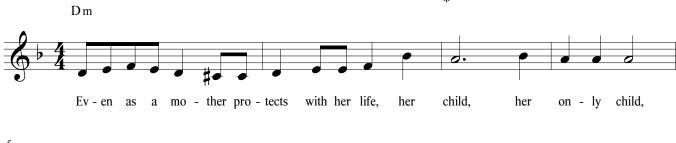
RESPECT POLKA

*any name (or object) can be inserted here, naturally!

The first time I see _____, deep inside I go "wow!" And then I look at _____ again, and outside I go "WOW!!" I look at _____ a third time, and then I make a bow, That's how I show respect for _____, just like I'm doing now Doggies may go "bow-wow-wow", but people should go "Wow, wow, bow!" If you wanna learn to "wow-wow-bow", just come along, I'll show you how Bow-wow-wow? No! Wow-wow-bow! Just come along, I'll show you how

Sangha Round the Campfire

lyrics from the Metta Sutta music by Nathaniel Needle





*When sung as a round, each successive group (up to four parts) begins on the first beat of this measure (on the word "child").

SANGHA ROUND THE CAMPFIRE (words from the Metta Sutta)

Even as a mother protects with her life Her child, her only child So, with a boundless heart Should one cherish all living beings!

Seated in the Cave of the Heart

by Nathaniel Needle



SEATED IN THE CAVE OF THE HEART

The body is a fragile jar
Of brittle dreams that seem so easily broken
Floating on a sea of words so easily spoken
You never stop them before they start
Like a lotus blooming in a muddy pond
Or a bright moon shining from behind the clouds
Finda quiety place among the crowds
Seated in the cave of the heart

CHORUS

Seated in the cave of the heart, find freedom, Seated in the cave of the heart Seated deep in the cave, in the cave of the heart (x3) Seated in the cave of the heart

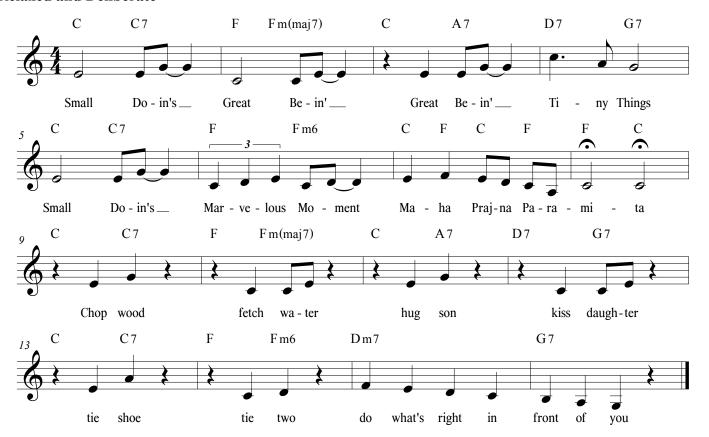
Desire is a rushing stream
Of fantasies that seem so satisfying
Leading to a waterfall of fear and crying
What comes together must fall apart
Like a white swan rising on the limitless air
Or a warrior charging on a motionless horse
Fly along an invisible course
Seated in the cave of the heart (CHORUS)

Suffering is a spider's web
Strands of death, old age and illness
It's difficult sometimes to search for stillness
To find the center without a chart
Like a jasmine letting all its flowers fall
Release your hold on pain and violence
Like a weary traveler coming home to silence
Seated in the cave of the heart (CHORUS)

Small Doin's

Nathaniel Needle

Relaxed and Deliberate



SMALL DOIN'S

CHORUS Small Doin's, Great Bein' Great Bein', Tiny Things Small Doin's, Marvelous Moment Maha Prajna Paramita

Chop wood, fetch water Hug son, kiss daughter Tie shoe, tie two Do what's right in front of you (CHORUS)

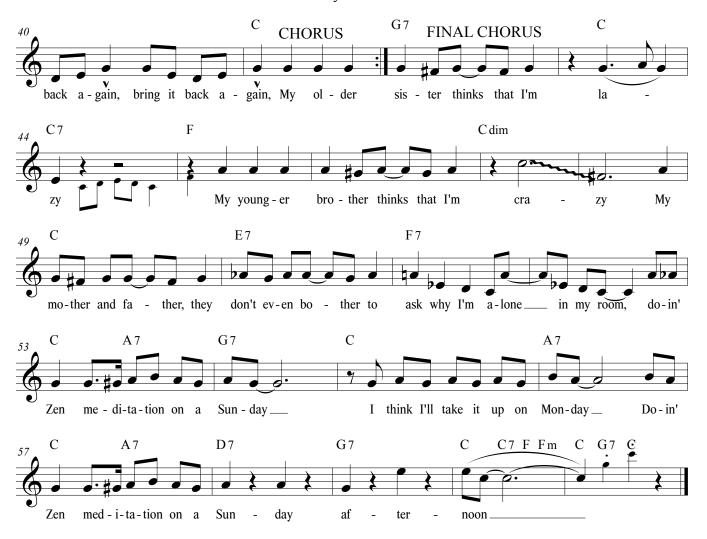
Close door, dry dish Scrub floor, feed fish Wash hair, if there Buddha-mind is everywhere (CHORUS) Wet rag, push broom Change bag, vacuum Wipe feet, wipe seat You are perfect and complete (CHORUS)

Fill pot, heat up When hot, fill cup Sip tea, slowly Mindfulness will set you free (CHORUS)

Sunday Afternoon



Sunday Afternoon



SUNDAY AFTERNOON

CHORUS

My older sister thinks that I'm lazy My younger brother thinks that I'm crazy My mother and father, they don't even bother To ask why I'm alone in my room Doin' Zen meditation on a Sunday afternoon

It wasn't all that hard to begin it
At first I just sat down for a minute
I watched my breath going in and out of my nose and then
When my mind started wandering, I would
Bring it back again, bring it back again,
Bring it back again (CHORUS)

I didn't need a whole lot of pushin'
To get myself a mat and a cushion
The peace and quiet improves my diet and soothes my stress
I confess, I'm worrying less and less,
Worrying less and less,
Worrying less and less (CHORUS)

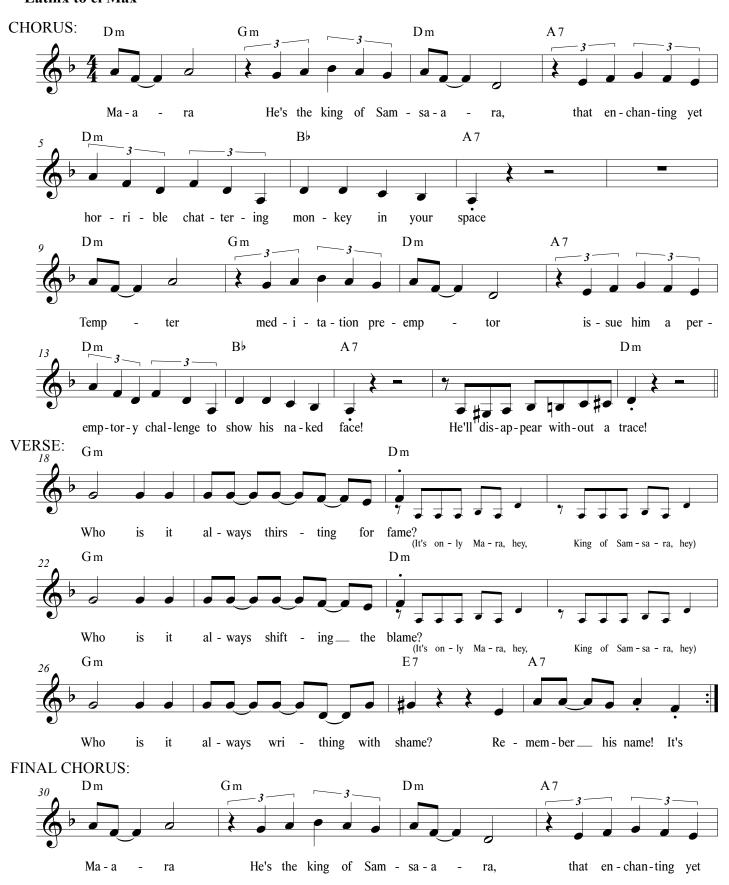
A tiny Buddha figure with candles
A shiny incense burner with handles
A little altar is my Gibraltar when things get rough
What's so tough when breathing is enough,
Breathing is enough,
Breathing is enough (CHORUS)

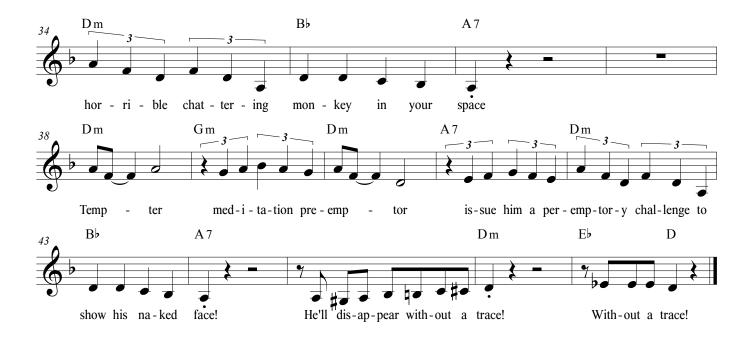
My room's become a regular zendo
I might as well just sell my Nintendo
My friends don't get it, but I don't let it disturb my poise
Girls and boys need a break from all the noise,
Break from all the noise,
Break from all the noise (CHORUS)

Tango de Mara

Latinx to el Max

Nathaniel Needle





TANGO DE MARA

CHORUS

Mara, he's the king of Samsara
That enchanting yet horrible chattering monkey in your space
Tempter, meditation pre-emptor
Issue him a preempotory challenge to show his naked face
He'll disappear without a trace

Who is it always thirsting for fame? Who is it always shifting the blame? Who is it always writhing with shame? Remember his name, it's (CHORUS)

Who is it always sowing mistrust? Who is it always panting with lust? Who is it always saying "I must"? Remember it's just old (CHORUS)

Who is it always striving for gain? Who is it always quick to complain? Who is it always moaning with pain? Who's yanking your chain, it's (CHORUS)

Three Jewels

Nathaniel Needle





THREE JEWELS

I put my trust in the Buddha
And resolve that with all beings I will realize
His great way
And cultivate a garden where the Buddha-seed may
Forever thrive
And I will grow a heart of enlightenment
I put my trust in the Dharma
And resolve that with all ebings I will penetrate
The sutra treasure
And I will pass through Dharma gates beyond measure
Uncovering
Wisodm as yast as the ocean

I put my trust in the Sangha
My borthers and sisters in times of need
And I resolve that nothing will impede
Our gentle walk to a world that's free
Liberated society
I put my trust in these Jewels Three
Perfect and complete right now inside of me
Each moment
And I resolve
that with all beings I will dedicate
Each moment
To their realization in this lifetime

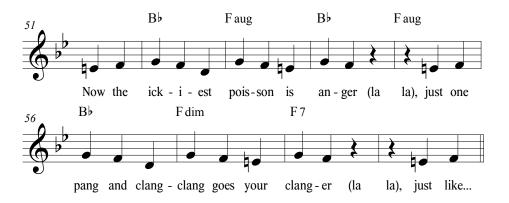
Buddha, Dharma, Sangha in this lifetime.

Three Poisons

Nathaniel Needle







Verse 3 Rhythm:



THREE POISONS

CHORUS

Three poisons, three poisons have we Looney-tunes that the universe sent us They creep up from behind and torment us Three poisons, three poisons have we

Now the stickiest poison is greed (la-la-la)
Makes you store a lot more than you need (la-la-la)
Just like Winnie-the-Pooh and his honey
That's how some people are about money
It's so hard to relax and enjoy friends
When you're always out hunting for boyfriends
No, you'll never be calm and serene
With greed always stealing the scene (CHORUS)

Now the ickiest poison is anger (la-la)
Just one pang and clang-clang goes your clanger (la-la)
Any slight might excite your six senses
And trigger your ego's defenses
Melodrama makes living eventful
That's the payoff for staying resentful
But you'll never be merry or jolly
With anger controlling your trolley (CHORUS)

Now the trickiest poison's delusion (la)
It's the source of all fear and confusion (la)
While the past and the future you're shaping
Your life of this moment's escaping
If in deep meditation you cloister
You'll perceive that the world is your oyster
But you'll always feel separate and shrimpy
With delusion inflating your blimpy (CHORUS)

Truckin' on the Eightfold Path

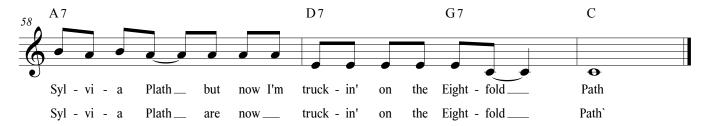


Truckin' on the Eightfold Path





Truckin' on the Eightfold Path



TRUCKIN' ON THE EIGHTFOLD PATH

Now all my friends have been concerned about me
They've been noticin' my tranquility
The light in my eyes, is quite a surprise
They wonder if I'm loony
Or maybe worse, a Moonie
I reassure 'em I'm not waitin' for some life after death
I ain't sacrificin' animals or channelin' Seth
But when I say I meditate observin' my breath
And tell 'em I'm a Buddhist
You'd think I'd just said "nudist"
So here's a simple way ot say without provokin' your wrath
That I'm truckin' on the Eightfold Path

CHORUS

Number one is right view Number two is right intention Number three is right speech Number four is right action Number five is right livelihood Number six is right effort Right Mindfulness, Right Concentration And you're truckin' on the eightfold path First you let a bigger view in Keep your little thoughts from strayin' Pay attention watcha doin' And start a-watchin' watcha sayin' Now if it's moral where you're workin' And you keep your inner percolator perkin' Add some mindfulness and concentration into the bath And you're truckin' on the eightfold path

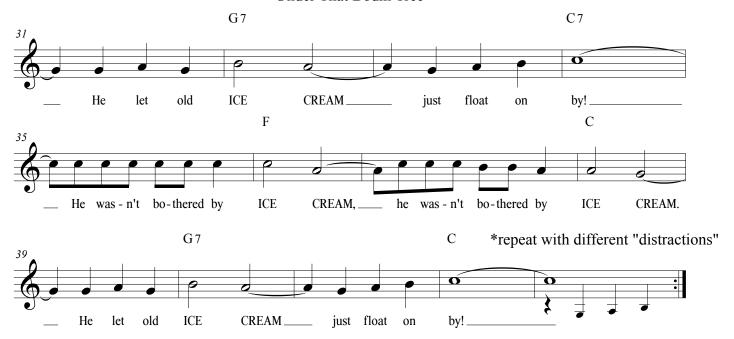
Now my relations have been caught off their guards 'Cause I've been nice to 'em, like sendin' 'em cards They can tell on the phone, there's someboyd home My ability to focus,
To them is hocus-pocus
I reassure 'em my reluctance to ignore or insult
Ain't no weird initiation rite for some hippie cult
I say, "Don't worry 'bout the reason, mom, enjoy the result!"
I don't dig evangelizin',
Not big on proselytizin'
So here's a simple way to say with rudimentary math
That I'm truckin' on the Eightfold Path (CHORUS)

Under That Bodhi Tree

Nathaniel Needle



Under That Bodhi Tree



UNDER THAT BODHI TREE

There's old Buddha, sittin' under that Bodhi Tree (Bodhi Tree) There's old Buddha, mind as quiet as it can be (it can be) Sittin' like a wise old frog (frog), sittin' like a lump on a log (log) Sittin' with a smile on his face (face), sittin' like empty space Doesn't mind rain, doesn't mind thunder What could bother old Buddha I wonder?

Ice cream?

He wasn't bothered by ice cream He wasn't bothered by ice cream He let old ice cream, just float on by (repeat)

[Repeat song using other distractions in place of "ice cream"]