



DIIPAK
DOGMA



DIIPAK
www.diipak.org

DOGMA

GREENEST GRASS (Diipak)

Some say the grass is always greener,
Some say you'll never be satisfied,
But as sure as the sun shines and the wind does blow,
You're the greenest grass I know.

You are the moon, you are the stars,
You are the ocean, Venus and Mars,
Together we'll climb and we'll reach our heights,
And keep each other warm on winter's nights.

Two people two minds, each special and good,
With gifts and opinions, we are not the same,
But this Love we share is what matters most,
This loving feeling, though I know I shouldn't boast,
Yeah yeah, yeah yeah yeah!

You're the greenest grass I know...

BALLAD OF PAIN AND LOVE (Diipak)

Someone was hurt a long time ago,
By whom and for what, no one really knows,
But that pain seemed to last, it never went away,
That's why people hurt each other, even today.

But something else happened a long time ago,
Someone was loved, and this Love grew,
It was passed on through time, nearly two million years,
That's why life exists – Love perseveres.

But that pain still lives on, and it threatens very life,
It seems as times there's nothin' but pain and strife,
Each day is a struggle, each moment counts too,
Pain and Love are in all of us, it's up to, up to me and you.

Well someone taught me Love, but I also learned the pain,
So I too can teach what I have gained,
But it's hard, yes it's hard, to always do the right thing,
'Cause sometimes Love looks a lot like pain.

Maybe one day, the hate would disappear,
The hurting would stop, and so would the fear,
Only Love would be taught and the people would know,
Love was all there was a long time ago.

LIVIN' IN A GRAVEYARD (Diipak)

Livin' in a graveyard,
And they say we have to move,
Is this really living?
My whole life I've been confused...

They say the dead must be visited,
By family, friends, and acquaintances,
Well I've watched them place down flowers,
Shed a tear and stay an hour,
While my family looks for food,
Ignoring people who are rude,
In the city that we roamed,
Now the graveyard is our home,
Yes the city lights shine bright,
On this cool Filipino night,
And the question fills my head:
Are we living or are we dead?

Livin' in a graveyard...

Respect to the dead,
Respect to the living,
Pretty words I've heard before,
– But can they be true?
They come daily to our home,
Amongst stray dogs and dry bones,
As mother sells her body,
And father begs for money,
No I've never been to school,
You may say my life is cruel,
But one thing I know for certain –
A graveyard ain't for the livin'...

Livin' in a graveyard...

ICARUS (Björn Afzelius)

In the treasure of youth that is my memory,
It's the terrible moments I recall,
Yes, the times that they scared me or they hit me,
Will forever be branded on my soul,
For every child in this world
takes love for granted,
All else goes against his nature,
At the instant that first brave step is taken,
One is just a devoted creature.

Still the grownups soon stand there and they're pointing,
Out the direction they think that one should take,
All the wishes and dreams they never realized,
They reinvent them and give them to their kids,
If you obey then they honor and reward you,
Rebel and you can kiss your dreams goodbye,
No one loves a child that is a failure,
No one loves a child that asks why.

But who in the world has the right to say,
What takes place in a young person's mind?
And who can say to another what happiness means,
Who can say what another should be?

Let your flowers grow roots where there is soil,
Let your offspring find shelter where they like,
Don't lock up all your plants inside a greenhouse,
Let them flourish in wind and rain and light,
Let your loved one go test her wings for flying,
One day she'll choose which way suits her the best,
If respect you desire of your children,
Then you'd best show your children respect,
If respect you desire of your children,
Well then you'd best show your children respect.

(Original title: Ikaros. English translation by Diipak.)

QUALIFIED (Diipak)

I got a job, a wife, and a baby at home,
I got a pretty nice life, and a place of my own,
I pay the bills, I drive, and I know how to cook,
Play golf with a club, and I fish with a hook.

Am I qualified...
To say that war is a racket and just give peace a chance? C'mon.

Ain't got no job, I stink, I live under a bridge,
I hit some pretty hard times, got no real place to live,
I have debt, I smoke, and I drink too much,
I got no teeth when I smile, and I walk with a crutch.

Am I qualified...
To say that one man's greed makes another man bleed?

They all want you to be just like them,
As far as I can see,
But no one's got any better credentials,
I'm as qualified as can be...

I am young, so young, only 1 year old,
I'm just a baby goin' crazy from the hunger and cold,
I got no voice, got no choice, I just do what I'm told,
If you look and I start crying, means you're too damn old.

Am I qualified...
To say just respect me, I'll serve humanity?

They all want you to be just like them,
As far as my eyes can see,
But no one's got any better credentials,
I'm as qualified as can be...

I am old, I'm sick, I lie in bed all day,
I got no appetite, and I'm too tired to pray,
My friends are dead, I'm not, I just got to survive,

The faith I got in myself is what keeps me alive.

Am I qualified...
To say just take it from me, it's your mind you must free?

They all want you to be just like them,
As far as anyone can see,
But no one's got any better credentials,
I'm as qualified as can be...

GREATEST THING (Diipak)

Like holding God in my hands,
He looks into my eyes, what does he see?
He sees me, and I see him,
A reflection that never ends.

Like holding God in my hands,
He looks into my eyes, what does he know?
He knows that I am here, and so is he,
I made you, you see, and you made me.

What is God? God is Love –
Nothing more and nothing less,
It's I and I, you and you,
Me, you, and everyone,
It's I and I, you and you,
Together we are one...

The Greatest Thing...

Like holding God in my hands,
He looks into my eyes, what does he feel?
He feels my love, and I feel his,
A love that grows and never dies.

Like holding God in my hands...

MANCHEGO AND WINE (Diipak)

Newspaper and a coffee,
A cigarette after breakfast,
Fire in the hearth on a snowy day,
Rainbow in the sky when the cloud's gone away,
Nothin' to do and a jukebox,
A fiddle bringin' life to a silent house,
Straight desert road and a fancy car,
Wakin' up to the hammer of a woody woodpecker...
Manchego and wine...

Bombs rainin' down on the border town,
Smiles of the children all turned to frowns,
Animal Kingdom just about done,
Pollution in the air 'bout to block out the sun,
Politician's voice sounds like bribery,
The only thing that sells is vanity,
Souls bought and sold at the drop of a hat,
Innocence wasn't lost cause it's never been had,
Manchego and wine...

Now the car and the house have all been sold,
Fire in the hearth is a-growing cold,
Haven't heard no pecking in quite some time,
Traded in my box for nickels and dimes,
The fiddle's gone 'cause we needed the wood,
We could've done better but we done what we could...
Manchego and wine, only in my mind...

LOVE POEM (Diipak)

Kissing you is like falling in love,
All over again,
Walking with you is like looking back from Eternity,
A snapshot in time,
Talking to you is the Embodiment of the Present Moment,
Loving you is all of these things,
And when we're apart,
– Knowingly or unknowingly –
I practice loving...
You.

DOGMA (Diipak)

Your dog ate your homework, well he ate mine too, now,
I thought I was alone, but with you that makes two, now,
We're both victims of a broken system,
If you wanna understand, you better sit down and listen,
A means B is much too easy,
We're more complex as society,
Each crime has its time that you have to pay, now,
But even skyscrapers, they were built to sway, now,
Seems like everybody's got someone to blame,
You can blame it on me, but you know we're the same, now.

It's a dogma. I blame it on the dogma,
I do, I blame it on the dogma,
Whoa, I blame it on the dogma,
Oy oy oy, Dogma.

Jews and Arabs, we're the same damn thing,
Both persecuted from the very beginning,
First Jews were slaves down in Egypt land,
Now my Arab friends keep a-losing their land,
1492, both were kicked out of Spain,
Seems like Spanish powers needed someone to blame,
Jews and Muslims and Christians unite,
There's only one God, no reason to fight,
Even atheists who never read the Sutras,
You believe in nothing – yeah, so did the Buddha.

It's a dogma...

The grace in your face that you don't even see,
So I spray it like mace, cause you got to be free,
Enlightenment is your natural state,
So smile, rest assured, and no it's not too late!

Religion is a curious thing,
It wants to make you happy, but there's too much sin,
The preacher leads a life of celibacy,

He might love a woman, but he can't marry,
So he preys on little boys, makes conspiracy,
Meanwhile he condemns homosexuality?!

It's a dogma...

Dogma
In every religion,
Dogma
In every culture too,
Dogma
But if you look inside yourself,
Dogma
You'll see no need for
Dogma
No need at all...
Dogma

For we are all,
Expressions of the Supreme...

LIKE NEW (Diipak)

Life was very novel...
In the beginning.
Everything was good when it was new,
But now I don't feel as much as singing,
When I feel like half my life is through,
Sometimes I wish I could do it all over again,
Sometimes I wish I could go back and see it with fresh eyes,
To smell and taste and touch it,
For the first time,
Just to see what life was like when it was new...

To see it like new, like new, like new,
To see it like new, like new, yeah...
Couldn't see it any other way,
Couldn't see it any other way, yeah...

To hear it for the first time, the first time, the first time,
To hear it for the first time, the first time, the first time, yeah...
Couldn't hear it any other way,
Couldn't hear it any other way, yeah...

To feel it for the first time, the first time, the first time,
To feel it for the first time, the first time, the first time, yeah...
Couldn't feel it any other way,
Couldn't feel it any other way, yeah...

The first time, the first time, the first time...
Like new, like new, yeah...

THERE'S ANOTHER WAY (Diipak)

They're keepin' us scared, make us take cover,
Make us turn on each other so we forget we all brothers,
And sisters from the start, the beginning, the get-go,
Made to live apart, separated by ghettos,
How easy we forget just how we arrived,
How our ancestors struggled, so we could survive,
But all it takes is one generation,
And a lying government to convince the whole nation,
That we're the only ones and we're the best,
USA Number One and to Hell with the rest,
So why don't I feel so nationalistic?
Maybe cause-a-everyone is goin' ballistic,
See to me it's just a big coincidence,
That I was born in this country, but don't take offense,
We all feel the same, all-a-want the same,
To be happy, safe and sound is our number one aim...

There's Another Way...

This ain't Star Wars, or the Empire Strikes Back,
This ain't a damn film, there's other ways we can fight back,
Than dropping these bombs, that don't discriminate,
Between the good and the bad, that just obliterate,
Whole homes and people, that's kind of rude,
Can you explain what it means, cause I don't know, I'm confused,
I thought killin' was a sin and we should love our enemies,
Not react with hate and go killin' everybody,
But I know it's a complex situation,
When we supplied Saddam and Osama's our creation,
I don't mean to hold a grudge, and I want to move forward,
But unless we look back, we can never move toward,
The future, tomorrow, it's what we've got to face,
And not just us - it's our children's fate,
Cause after we die, they gonna live on,
That's why we gotta teach them love, so they can get along...

Get Along... There's Another Way...!

LIVE TODAY (Diipak)

I wasn't born to be afraid,
Wasn't born to turn and hide away,
No I wasn't born to be afraid,
I was born to live and live today.

Something inside says, "let go,
Let go of this old ego,"
Cause I was born so long ago,
And this is all I really know,
Cause I was born so long ago,
This is what I wanted you to know:

Open your heart and let love grow,
There's no need for feeling low,
Just keep on reaching for the sky,
I know you know the reason why,
Just keep on reaching for the sky,
Then no one can say you never tried.

I wasn't born to be afraid,
Wasn't born to turn and hide away,
No I wasn't born to be afraid,
I was born to live and live today.

Live today...

LINER NOTES AND CREDITS

All songs written, performed and produced by Diipak (Nathaniel Glasser) except for Icarus which was written by Björn Afzelius, translated from Swedish into English by Diipak.

Sound engineering by Isabella Johansson and Mikael "Berkan" Bergström.
Songs mixed by Isabella Johansson and mastered by Mikael "Berkan" Bergström.

Design and layout of CD by Aino-Maria Kumpulainen.
Digital booklet designed by Tomas Zackarias Westberg, TZW Produktion.

Original artwork by Leon Kühn.
Cover photo by José Figueroa.

GREENEST GRASS

A love song written for my wife.

Diipak – lead and backing vocals, percussion; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Jonas Fogelström – Hammond organ; Kieran "Loughy" O Loughlin – guitar; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; Niklas Alexandersson – electric guitar; Pelle Vallgren – drums.

BALLAD OF PAIN & LOVE

A song exploring why things are as they are.

Diipak – lead vocals, violin; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Niklas Alexandersson – electric guitar; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; Pelle Vallgren – drums.

LIVIN' IN A GRAVEYARD

Inspired by news of homeless people in the Philippines who lived in a cemetery but were "evicted" by the church connected with the graveyard.

Diipak – lead vocals; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Chuck Anthony – electric guitar; Henrik Lörstad – keyboards; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, acoustic guitar, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; James Bradley, Jr. – drums.

ICARUS

Some songs have everything: great harmony, melody and lyrics. Translation, of course, can never do a great song justice, but I did my best. One day I hope to do a whole album of Swedish songs translated into English – heads up!

Diipak – lead vocals, violin; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Henrik Lörstad – keyboards; Niklas Alexandersson – electric guitar; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; Pelle Vallgren – drums.

QUALIFIED

Four different perspectives on this state of being called Life.

Diipak – lead vocals, percussion; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Chuck Anthony – electric guitar; Jonas Fogelström – Hammond organ; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, acoustic guitar, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; James Bradley, Jr. – drums.

GREATEST THING

Written for my first son, Leon. When he was a baby, I was holding him and thinking about a mantra, Baba Nam Kevalam, that can be translated as "everything is the expression of the Supreme Consciousness" or that everything has God in it. Kind of trippy when you feel you're holding God in your hands...

Diipak – lead vocals, harpsichord; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Chuck Anthony – electric guitar; Fredrik Schützler – oud; Jairohm Parker Wells – upright electric bass; Mats Frisk – acoustic guitar, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; James Bradley, Jr. – drums.

MANCHEGO & WINE

Possibly one of the only songs written about a kind of cheese...Manchego is a staple delicacy not unlike parmesan, but usually milder, it goes down especially well with a nice glass of vino tinto. For some reason, when writing this song, this tasty tapa came to me as a symbol for the pleasures of life. I wasn't exactly sure where the song was going, but all the pieces came together when I started searching for sound bites of newscasters from Spain talking about the devastating economic crisis in Spain and elsewhere.

Diipak – lead vocals, keyboard, handclapping; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Chuck Anthony – electric guitar; Fredrik Schützler – classical guitar; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, acoustic guitar, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; James Bradley, Jr. – drums.

LOVE POEM

A free-form expression of Love.

Diipak – lead vocals; Chuck Anthony – electric guitar; Fredrik Schützler – oud; Jairohm Parker Wells – up-right electric bass; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, acoustic guitar; Mia Törngren – percussion; James Bradley, Jr. – drums.

DOGMA

I used to blame religion for many of the world's problems, but I do think it's the dogma, not the religion per se... religion came about as a way to try to organize spirituality, but some people seem to have forgotten about the spiritual part and have only focused on "the rules." As someone said, "rules are for breaking..." – There's something to be said about that! Of course, the Golden Rule – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you – is a good one, but that's more a respect "thang" and is very Buddhist in nature as it points to the law of interdependence – the connectedness of all things.

Diipak – lead vocals; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Chuck Anthony – electric guitar; Fredrik Schützler – oud; Henrik Lörstad – keyboards; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, acoustic guitar, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; James Bradley, Jr. – drums.

LIKE NEW

I think of this as a kind of "Afzelius song" because the Swedish songwriter had several songs that went from dark to light, as does this one.

Diipak – lead vocals, acoustic guitar, harmonica; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Chuck Anthony – electric guitar; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, acoustic guitar, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; James Bradley, Jr. – drums.

THERE'S ANOTHER WAY

This used to be a rap until I realized I'm a better singer than rapper...James Bradley Jr. is not only a legendary drummer, he's also an incredible singer, featured with his adlibs on the second half of this track, also amazing contributions from singers Annelie Backemo and Emelie Lönnerheden.

Diipak – lead vocals; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Chuck Anthony – electric guitar; Emelie Lönnerheden – voice; Jonas Fogelström – Hammond organ; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, acoustic guitar, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; James Bradley, Jr. – drums, voice.

LIVE TODAY

Although it may sound cliché, there are so many benefits to "living in the moment." In this society, stress is the general emotion one ends up feeling because of all the pressures and negative energies fed to us by consumerism. Beyond all materialism is the Now. In terms of time, well, it's always now. But so much of our time is stolen from us either regretting the past or fearing the future. In the Now, there is no fear, no regret; just being feels great! If we can focus more on our breath, on a mantra, or whatever can take us into the Now, we can be free from that which drags us down, makes us tired, unhappy, etc.

Diipak – lead vocals, acoustic guitar; Annelie Backemo – backing vocals; Niklas Alexandersson – electric guitar; Magnus Malmros – cello; Mats Frisk – accordion, electric bass; Mia Törngren – percussion; Pelle Vallgren – drums.

We can't help the fact that we must one day leave this place, but we can live a beautiful life if we want to!

Thanks for visiting diipak.org and if you have any questions or comments, send me a line!

Namaskar,
Diipak

GRATITUDE TO

You who bought the album! It's good to know some people still value music in a way that supports the musician. Otherwise, the only people left recording music are the rich (and they don't always have the best taste, haha).

The musicians who performed on this album – Annelie Backemo, Chuck Anthony, Emelie Lönnerheden, Fredrik Schützler, Henrik Lörstad, Jair-Rohm Parker Wells, James Bradley Jr., Jonas Fogelström, Kieran "Loughy" O'Loughlin, Magnus Malmros, Mats Frisk, Mia Törngren, Niklas Alexandersson, and Pelle Vallgren.

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Artists/designers: Aino-Maria Kumpulainen, Arlo Knox, Felix Hill, Joaquim Ceder, Jonas Fogelström, Lara Szabo Greisman.

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To Mikael Wiehe and Stefan Sundström for lighting the path for music and change.

Thich Nhat Han, Dalai Lama and Ananda Marga.

Rabbi David and Dada Veda for their friendship and undogmatic approach to spirituality.

In memory of Staffan.

DIIPAK DOGMA

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All songs written and produced by Diipak except for Icarus (written by Björn Afzelius, translated by Diipak). Mixed by Isabella Johansson. Mastered by Mikael "Berkan" Bergström. For credits, liner notes and lyrics, please visit www.diipak.org