

## Little Atoms

Elvis Costello

I arose and Marigold lay down with Curious Iris  
Cherry gave to Victor her prudence and her virus  
FOR the sake of purity I can recall the time and place  
Between wisdom and murder she gave up her  
Immaculate face

My poor belated chastity fell foul  
of grown up games  
With false and lovely modesty  
I can recall the names I'll miss  
In the particle of me that cares for this  
I betrayed those little atoms with a kiss

Patience has her virtue still but every grace  
must have its price  
I through some felicity may spin a tale  
of constant vice  
I took my better nature out, drowned it  
in the babbling stream  
Took the blossom of my youth  
and blew it all to smithereens

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And if you still don't like my song  
Then you can just go to hell  
I don't care if I'm right or wrong or if  
my typewriter can spell  
But I cannot promise you I've said "goodbye"  
to childish things  
There's still some pretty insults left  
and such sport in threatening

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And for the sake of clarity  
They are "faith", "hope", and "charity"  
In the particle of me that cares for this  
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