

# The Ascension

Sufjan Stevens

When I am dead and the light leaves my breast  
Nothing to be told, nothing to confess  
Let the record show what I couldn't quite confess  
For by living for myself, I was living for unrest  
Then the evidence came back in a chariot of vindication  
Something to behold, glorious in its path  
But the prophecy fell back as it gave to me an invitation  
Show them what is right, show them what is blessed

But now it strikes me far too late again  
That I was asking far too much of everyone around me  
And now it strikes me far too late again  
That I should answer for myself as the ascension falls upon me

So what should be said of a life that leaves its mess?  
For once your life was sold, it could never be possessed  
You were selfishly as a continent, you were finally at your best  
For you favored for yourself when selfishness was blessed  
Then Cordelia came back in a chariot hallucination  
Something to rejoice, glorious in its wrath  
But the prophecy was a pantomime as it came to me in accusation  
Show them what is right, show them what is best

But now it strikes me far too late again  
That I was asking far too much of everyone around me  
And now it strikes me far too late again  
That I should answer for myself as the ascension falls upon me

And now it frightens me, the thought against my chest  
To think I was asking for a reason explaining why everything's a total mess  
And now it frightens me, the dreams that I possess  
To think I was acting like a believer when I was just angry and depressed  
And to everything there is no meaning, a season of pain and hopelessness  
I shouldn't have looked for revelation, I should have resigned myself to this

I thought I could change the world around me  
I thought I could change the world for best  
I thought I was called in convocation  
I thought I was sanctified and blessed

But now it strengthens me to know the truth at last  
That everything comes from consummation, and everything comes with consequence  
And I did it all with exultation while you did it all with hopelessness  
Yes, I did it all with adoration while you killed it off with all of your holy mess

What now?  
What now?