

THE PASSING OF TIME

All Words and Music © Kenny Karen

TATENIU

Words & Music by Kenny Karen (1982)

Yesterday keeps passing through my memory
Floating through a honey-colored sky,
Dripping with the sweetness I remember
Flavored by a soothing lullabye.
All of life was young and
dreams were on parade
Marching through an
endless field of serenades,
But when I looked for strength
I found it in your smile
Holding up the world for one believing child.

Remember, sit with me, and hold my hand,
Tateniu,
Talk to me, man to man, Tateniu.
A magical kingdom was there in your eyes
The flutter of wings and an angel's disguise.
I asked you, who am I, what are we, Tateniu?
Will I learn, will I see, Tateniu?
The questions of ages you answered as one:
Love is all you will need, my son.

The years go by and time has quickly flown
A father now with children of my own,
And mem'ries fade into an autumn day
Dreams ago, far away.

So come and rest a while, in your chair,
Tateniu.
When you call, I'll be there, Tateniu.
The head of the family, the heart of the home.
God grant you time to love, time to share,
Time to spend with those who care,
Time to be Tateniu to me.

AKIVA

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

I am the spirit, I am Akiva
An open meadow, a flowing stream
A shining star that fills an empty sky
A newborn eagle learning how to fly
Sounding an ancient battle cry
He dares to dream
Faith can heal the heart and bring salvation
And with love and dedication
He would teach a nation how to try.

I am the spirit, I am Akiva
A raging river, a breath of spring
A fountain in the morning desert sun
A guiding light that sees through everyone
Hearing a song when there is none
He dares to sing
Freedom is the key to our creation
Standing on a new foundation
Every man could learn to be a king.

So who can defeat us
The beat of our heart is a drum
Tomorrow will greet us
For time is a race that we have won
Peace is the spirit, the freedom that's here at
our command
I am Akiva and I hold the world in my hand.

I am the spirit, I am Akiva
I am your shadow, your peace of mind
When hope is gone and you no longer see
I'll be your eyes, your strength, your liberty
Sharing a common destiny
We dared to find
Facing each tomorrow undivided
Arm and arm we stand united
Learning from the past we leave behind.

So who can defeat us
The beat of our heart is a drum
Tomorrow will greet us
For time is a race that we have won
Peace is the spirit, the freedom that's here at
our command
I am Akiva and I hold the world in my hand.

JERUSALEM IS MINE

Words & Music by Kenny Karen (1975)

I am the sun, Jerusalem,
You are a painted sky
I am a bird, Jerusalem,
You have the wings to fly.
You are the father of my dream
I am a gift of time
I am your child, Jerusalem,
Jerusalem is mine.

You are an orchard in the sand
I am the fruit you bear
You are the glove that warms my hand
I am the smile you wear.
You are the music of the hills
I am the words that rhyme
I am your song, Jerusalem,
Jerusalem in mine.

You are the cradle of freedom
I am the harvest of springtime
You are the dawn of a new day
I am tomorrow
You are forever.

You are my shelter from the storm
I am your guiding light
You are a book whose leaves are torn
I am a page you write.
You are the branches of a tree
I am a clinging vine
I am your prayer, Jerusalem,
Jerusalem is mine.

I have come home, Jerusalem, Jerusalem is mine.

THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

One dim and distant light that flickers in the night
And struggles to survive.
That reaches out to find a stronger frame of mind
To keep the dream alive.
And here I stand a believer in the quality of dreams
A flame to light our way, to see us through each day
The Festival of Lights.

A miracle of time, an uphill road to climb,
The tears we would not cry.
The truth for all to see, the face of liberty,
The dream that would not die.
And here I stand, a defender of the right to dream again,
And as we've done before, we'll celebrate once more,
The Festival of Lights.

The miracle of life is what we've won –
A miracle whose life has just begun.

But who am I alone?
A heart without a home, a light without a prayer.
A family of friends, a song without an end,
Is what we need to share.
So take my hand and together we will brighten up the sky,
A festival of hope, a festival of dreams,
A festival of light.
And as we've done before, we'll celebrate once more
The Festival of Lights.

THERE WILL BE SWEETER DAYS

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

There will be sweeter days
There will be better times
There will be songs to sing and joy to bring
And children dancing forever.
There will be you and I
There will be days gone by
And if you close your eyes and touch my hand
Then I'll be standing there with you.

So never go away
Never say good bye
Someday the tears will dry
Then you and I can face tomorrow.
Just hold me and tell me that love never dies
There will be sweeter days and happy times
again.

There will be sweeter days
There will be better times
There will be warm Julys and summer skies
And moments lasting forever.
And we'll be young again
And we will dream again
And I will call your name and see your smile
And my heart will caress you.

So never go away
Never say good bye
Someday the tears will dry
Then you and I can face tomorrow.
Just hold me and tell me that love never dies
There will be sweeter days and happy times
again.

GOD OF MY FATHER

Words and Music by Kenny Karen

God of my father, Father in heaven
Give us your blessings, we grains of sand.
Show us your kindness, we non-believers
Remove our blindness, give us your hand.

We are as snowflakes dancing one moment
Madness and passion taking command.
Are you eternal? Are you forgiving?
Is life worth living, can we understand?

God of my father, Father in heaven
Where you will lead us, you alone know.
Are we the victims, are we the dreamers
You're our redeemer, don't let us go.
_Do you not hear us, are you not listening
Cries and confusion of mortal men.
You are our healer, our greatest virtue
God would not hurt you, whisper "Amen."

God of my father, I must beseech you
How can I reach you, one common stone.
I seek the answers no one has shown me
Until I find them, I'll be alone
God of my father, please bring me home.

ELLIS ISLAND

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Ellis Island, dreams upon the water
Freedom's sons and daughters
speak your name.
Ellis Island, common destinations
Scattered invitations still remain.

Who will greet us?
Will we find the streets all paved with gold?
With food enough to share
And children's voices dancing in the air.
Will we lose our hearts?
Will we lose our souls?

Ellis Island, pray that they will take us
God will not forsake us in the end.
Ellis Island, eyes that seek forever
Where they've been they'll never be again.

Broken ties, our separate lives prevail
Distant cries, the family must not fail.
Sacrifice to feed us,
mama's strength will lead us
Waiting in the shadows for the mail.
'Til papa's arms can hold us all together.

Ellis Island, enter through the Great Hall
Faces fill with wonderment and fear.
Ellis Island, morning prayers 'til nightfall
Silence is the only sound we hear.

Immigration, looks into our eyes
but not our souls
And all that they can see is what we've been
and not what we might be.
Have they room for you?
Is there room for me?

Ellis Island, years of persecution
Time for retribution to begin.
Ellis Island, here is my salvation
God protects this nation – let me in!

THE SEED OF ABRAHAM

Words & Music by Kenny Karen (1988)

We are the darkness and the light
The morning and the night,
We are the blessed and the damned
The lion and the lamb,
We stand together or we stand alone
Building dreams or building homes
We feed the land
With the seed of Abraham.

We are the children of Israel
The conscience of history,
the pride and the dignity
We've shown the world that we hold the key to
the Promised Land
We are the seed of Abraham.

We are the weak, we are the strong
We are the right, we are the wrong,
We are the guns, we are the bread
We are the living and the dead,
We are the scattered sand that hugs the shore
A guiding hand through peace and war
We feed the land
With the seed of Abraham.

We are the children of Israel
The conscience of history,
the pride and the dignity
We've shown the world that we hold the key to
the Promised Land
We are the seed of Abraham.

Different fears, the fathers and the sons,
Have we forgotten how to touch the stars?
Through the years have we lost
or have we won?
We need to remember who we are...

We are the children of Israel
The conscience of history,
the pride and the dignity
We've shown the world that we hold the key to
the Promised Land
We are the seed of Abraham.

IF THE WORLD HAD CRIED

Words & Music by Kenny Karen (1984)

Did the flowers cry, did their petals fall
Did they live one day, were they blown away
Were they there at all?
Did the oceans roar, did the trumpets call
Did they stop to pray on that godless day
Did they care at all?

Were their eyes deceived,
were their hearts betrayed
Did they rise or fall, did they march or crawl
Through the masquerade?
If the world had cried, long before the tears
Would they not have died, would they still be
here?

And, what of the children
with hope in their eyes
Would they be masters or slaves?
And, what of the future, the truth and the lies
Would there be children to save?

They were much too young,
they were much too old
Finding any trace, each remembered face
Mem'ries bought and sold.
Pictures without hope, families without names
Were we all too blind, did we trust mankind
Do we share the blame?

Did we not believe, were we not afraid
Were there storied told of forgotten souls
Of the price they paid?
If the world had cried, long before the tears
Would they not have died,
would they still be here?

We must not forget, it has stained our lives
Were we blessed with time,
were we next in line
Why did we survive?
If the world had cried, for the missing years
For the love that died, would they still be here?