

2020 VISION

2020. The year of vision
The time to make the big decision
To open our eyes and see the signs
The downside of our grand designs

In hindsight, we've been in denial
Walked blind into our greatest trial
Our dreams have led us to the brink
There's so little time to stop and think

What we want and what we need
Are poles apart, like gift and greed
What we think and what we do
Are crucial now, the debt is due

Today we're rich, tomorrow poor
Nature can't give us any more
Better preserve what we have left
Before we leave the world bereft

The Quiz

We love to do quizzes
In the pub on quiz night
To test our knowledge
And to feel we are right

Our favourite questions
Soap operas or sport
Nothing to challenge
Our old ways of thought

When will the Arctic
Give up its last ice?
We don't like such questions
We don't think they're nice

But if we can't answer
Such questions as these
What happens to quiz night?
It's dust in the breeze

Until we ask questions
That matter the most
And think of some answers
Our future is toast

The Realistic Optimist

The realistic optimist will see
That we are heading for catastrophe
But he'll draw the line at deep despair
So long as we begin to be aware

We know our ecological debt is high
Fuelled by every new thing that we buy
We know this is how we need to measure
The true cost of our luxury and leisure

This knowledge will help us to make a
start
To find a new way and to give us heart
First realism, so we know the score
Then optimism, so we can do more!

How Dare You!

How dare you!
Rages Greta. Oh so true
The things we'll put our children through

What have we been thinking of?
What foolishness is this?
Expecting the young to lead the way
Expecting them to save the day

It's time for grown-ups to grow up
And take responsibility
We made this mess, it's our bequest
Do children have to do the rest?

We shop till we drop and all our glitter
Is turning into toxic litter
It's not too late to change our ways
And we must alter, as Greta says

Unless we change, it will get worse
Our box a tomb, our car a hearse
Nature gone, and in its place
The remnants of a once proud race

Tipping Points

We've reached the point of no return
But scientists warn in vain
Heatwaves in Siberia
While China's drenched in rain

Our last chances pass us by
To do the things we must
Such sad observers we shall be
When landscapes turn to dust

A tall tree that's about to fall
Starts slowly then falls fast
The slippery slope is beckoning
Which tree will be the last?

Greenland turning green again
Its glaciers will be no more
The Arctic will be free of ice
In twenty thirty-four

The bleaching of the Coral Reefs
Makes deserts in the sea
Must we wait to see savanna
Where rainforests used to be?

Melting permafrost spews methane
To further heat our atmosphere
The endless ice of the Antarctic
On its way to disappear

When the Gulf Stream loses its memory
The oceans will be lost
We need a different point of view
To help us pay the cost

The Case Against the Human Race

We're blinded by our human rights
Our animal kin are out of sight
If nature must remain excluded
Our story will soon be concluded

If human nature must come first
We'll think we're best and be the worst
Unless we change collective thinking
We'll never realise we're sinking

The road to privilege for all
Is paved with pride, it's our downfall
Humility as a human grace
Is all that will protect our race

Those with plenty need to share
Before their cupboards too are bare
We must see we're in this together
A change of heart to change the weathr

Concrete Tomb

Now we live in concrete boxes
Safe and sound from birds and foxes
The only nature children see
Is what's presented on TV

Remember when you were a child?
You spent your days outside, half wild
We did things in a different way
In touch with nature every day

Now nature has to fight for space
As concrete cities grow apace
In every block the children hide
It isn't safe to go outside

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Our box a tomb, our car a hearse
Nature gone, and in its place
The remnants of a once proud race