

# The Kingdom of Ends

The Sixth album by Matt Hall & The Meteor Shower  
(featuring Steve Hunt on vocals and arrangements)

## Wherever we go (the ego goes)



V.1 How exactly do we see ourselves  
Without a looking glass  
Is it the same old person  
Or a face from the past

How exactly can we know ourselves  
When we lose our minds  
It's a delicate two-way mirror  
That truth can never quite find

Br.1 Impossible sense  
Found in consciousness  
It's heaven sent  
It's reality-ness

V.2 A weird image received  
And revealed in a dream  
Abstract events where  
Nothing's as it seems

Br.2 It's just phantom sense  
Meta- consciousness  
REM's pretence  
It's reality-less

Ch. Where exactly did we learn  
To know ourselves ?  
And wherever we go  
The ego goes

*Instrumental verse link and solo*

*Repeat chorus*

V.3 A walk in the woods  
Senses overload  
It's a feeling so good (I'd say)  
Let's keep going past the end of the road

Br.3 Impossible sense  
Found in consciousness  
It's heaven sent  
It's reality-ness

*Repeat chorus*

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## Svengali



V.1 Conditioned reflex  
He'll get you craving  
Unconditional sex  
But keeps you waiting

He'll use a sleight of hand  
And maybe underhand  
He'll use psychology  
Like sexual gravity

Br. All's unfair in love and war  
Is such a thing worth waiting for?

Ch. Svengali plays on memories  
Thrills by association  
He triggers all your senses  
For pure infatuation

V.2 The sound of beats and bells  
Are so alluring  
Cool cats and magic spells  
So reassuring

A rush of endorphins  
Shoot to your mind  
But more affection  
Than you'll ever find

Repeat Br & Ch

Instrumental break

V.3 Is it cheating to inveigle you?  
(If he is)  
Is it destiny you're going through?  
*(Instrumental line)*

But in the meantime  
He'll keep on keeping on you see  
He'll use psychology  
Politics and chemistry

Repeat Br & Ch

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## Who's the Maniac ?





V.1 What is mad?  
That's what you say  
Or am I bad?  
In any way

Br.1 The trolls await  
To decide your fate

Ch. Does anybody know?  
Or dare to let their feelings show  
So what's the truth  
Who's the maniac and what's the proof?

V.2 Hearts of Gold  
Love will tear you apart  
Eccentric souls  
Handicapped from the start

Br.2 The crowds declare  
"It's just not fair"

Ch. Does anybody know?  
Or dare to let their feelings show  
So what's the truth  
Who's the maniac and what's the proof?

V.3 Abnormal emotions  
No feelings to share  
Or just the usual notions  
Just couldn't care

Br.3 The press hacks wait  
To publish your fate

Ch. Does anybody know?  
Or dare to let their feelings show  
So what's the truth  
Who's the maniac and what's the proof?

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## Evergreen



### **Verse 1**

*The scent of pine  
Hangs still on the air  
Above the treeline  
Still fills senses*

*Foreboding darkness  
Eminence from the forest  
Rime frost like icing sugar  
With echoes of brilliant light*

**(Bass link)**

### **Verse 2**

*Winter's creeping in*

*Goodbye precious daylight  
We'll lock down the cabin  
And say hello to a silent night*

*The pathway leads  
Leads downhill through the fir trees  
To a civilisation  
Past (through) a million light centuries*

**(Bass link 2)**

*In the evergreen*

**Verse 3**

*Old-fashioned memories  
Fill the air with a fog  
No crock of gold quite as it seems  
Nothing as dark as a black dog*

*Here the moon is shining  
Cruel and cold like a Jack Frost  
While our half-light's declining  
And our feelings are lost in a reverie*

**(Bass link 3)**

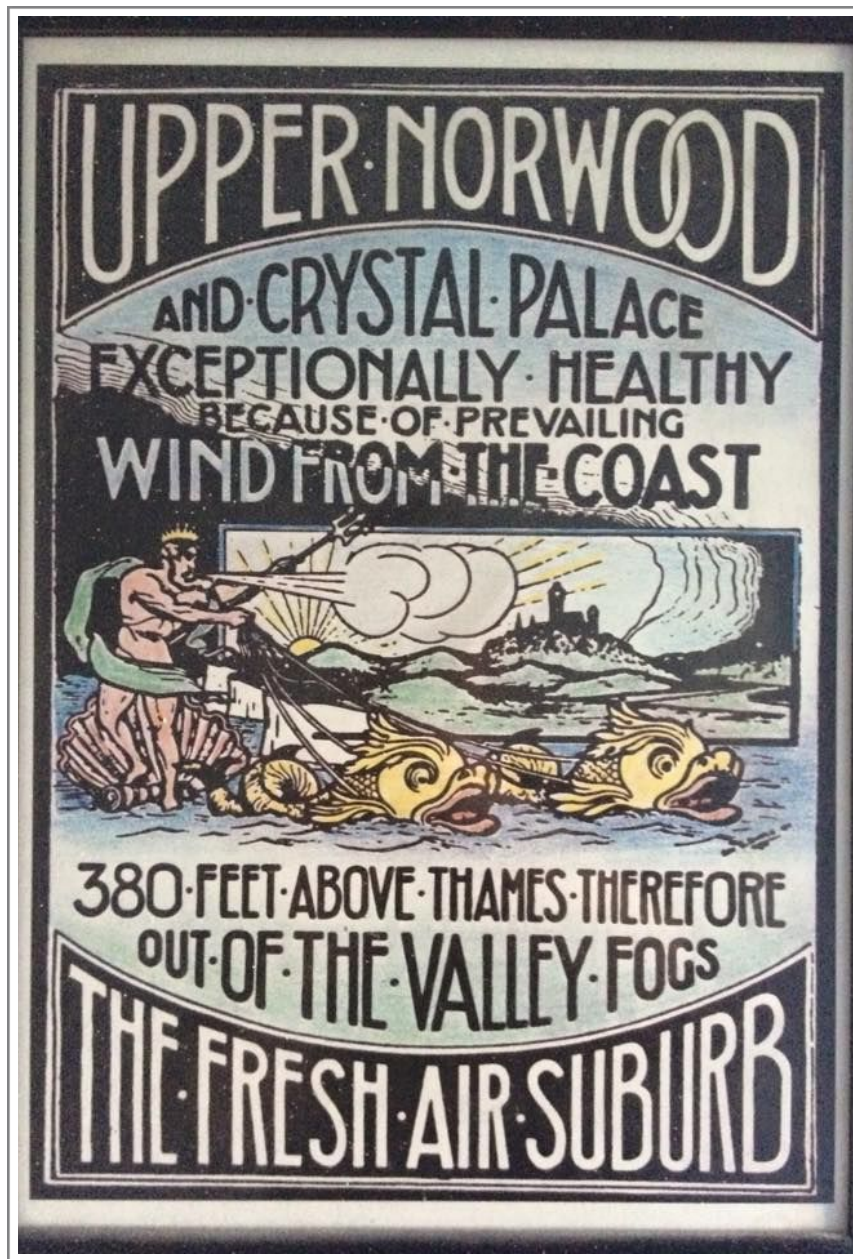
*In the evergreen  
Tranquil and serene*

**(Coda)**

*The buzz of a light plane  
Jolts minds back to modernity  
And we're saved from a missionary's grave  
Thoughts to and fro eternally*

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Power or Placebo



V.1 Is it false discovery we're going through  
Or my mind telling me it's hit the truth  
Twenty years inveigled by a wonder drug  
Or lives saved by a chemical so where's your proof

Ch.1 Power or placebo, the sugar pill ?  
Potency or persuasion or deluded thrills ?



V.2 We once believed in the magic beans  
We believed and so it set us free (or so it seemed)  
But sometimes fantasy would turn to disconnect  
Here's the sugar pill - suck it and see

*Repeat Chorus*

*Instrumental break*

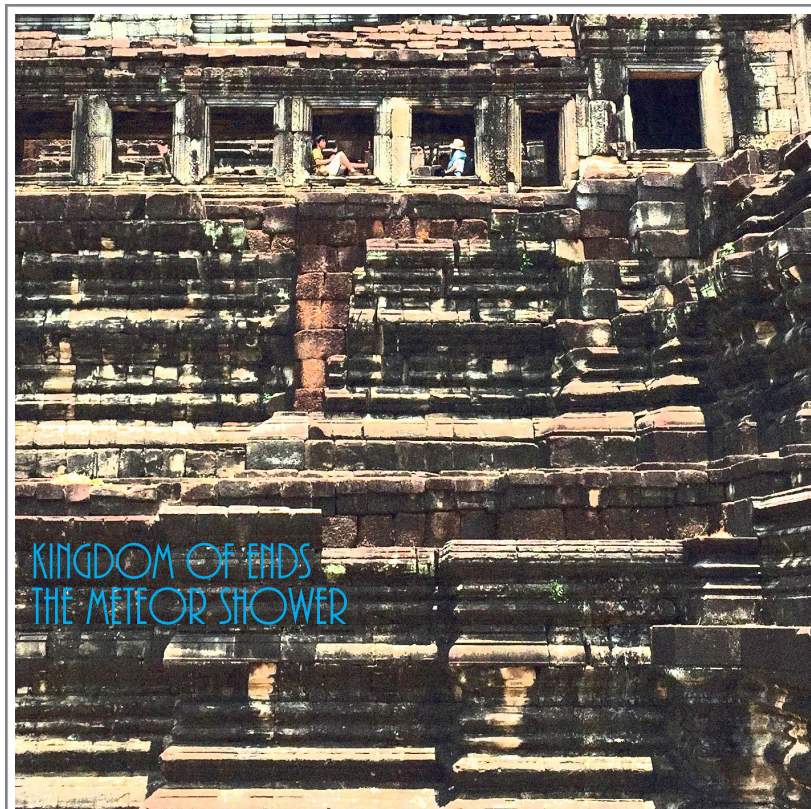
V.3 All the while, we trusted the evidence  
No false hopes, we used our intelligence  
And the endgame was never predicted  
Blind faith didn't make a blind difference

*Repeat chorus & fade*

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## *The Kingdom of Ends*

*(Picture by Steve Hunt)*



**V.1** *Looking on through an opaque lens  
We're looking on to the Kingdom of Ends  
Where destiny is in the mind's eye  
Metaphysics and a kingdom of lies*

**V.2** *Here we dance to the beat of a drum  
Where life is maths and the answer's just a sum  
Are we all who they once supposed  
Or are we dressed in the Emperor's new clothes*

**Instrumental break**

**Ch.1** *How can you stand here?  
So cynical and so surreal  
There's madness around here  
The way it is you can't reveal  
A cheap simulacrum  
An abstract kingdom of ends  
But life's in the real world  
This blueprint, it makes no sense*

**V.3** *Looking forward through a foggy lens  
Looking up to the Kingdom of Ends  
The lotus eaters in cafes and bars and  
Purple prose and reflections of the past*

**v.4** *Welcome citizens to our new world  
Model workers, the future's been unfurled  
In reality I'm not so sure  
We're model soldiers in a make-believe world war*

**Instrumental break**

**Ch.2** *How can you stand here?  
So cynical and so surreal*

*There's madness around here  
The way it is you can't reveal  
A cheap simulation  
An abstract kingdom of ends  
But life's in the real world  
This blueprint, it makes no sense*

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## *Science in Song*



**V.1 Genetic chemistry**  
Raw electricity  
A spark of life that makes  
The bonds that bind us

A human chromosome  
A lifelong genome  
A fragile building block  
In our existence



Those genes that make us bad  
Those genes that make us mad  
And those that make us sad  
Or glad all over

I'm feeling fine now  
I'm feeling anyhow  
Creative energy  
That moves us onward

**Ch.1** We're talking rhymes  
Science in song  
Heady times  
What took us so long?

**V.2** A Window to the world  
A rare and precious pearl  
A path that leads on to  
A graceful future

These gifts that make you special  
Reveal a true potential  
So how come thoughts become  
So maladjusted

These junctions in the road  
A neuron overload  
A clash of purposes that  
Lead to nowhere

Can science help us out here?  
Genetic engineers  
Can good intentions overcome  
The hard wires

**Ch.2** We're talking rhymes  
Science in song  
Scary times  
What can go wrong

So strike up the band  
And let it play  
Let's toast to the future  
In any way

***Instrumental break***

**V.3** And when things c  
ome to pass  
A baby step too far  
A toxic mix  
In our imagination

A vile destructive meme  
A psychopathic gene  
What turns around  
Will come around it seems like

**Ch.3** We're talking rhymes  
Science in song  
Heady times  
What took us so long?

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***State of Grace***



**V.1** Outside a factory yard  
Once locked gates and empty buildings  
A long recession had hit us so hard  
A welfare state was our only saving grace

**Br.1** No coups, no revolutions  
No martial laws, no pogroms

**Ch.** We're in a state of grace  
In our castles and homes  
It's a pride of place  
This domain is our own

**V.2** We're standing beside  
School gates and a crowded playground  
Trying to teach a compassionate world  
And learning hope, where some hope can be found

**Br.2** No commissars, no KGB  
No dictators, no bully beefs

**Repeat Ch.**

**Middle 8th & solo**

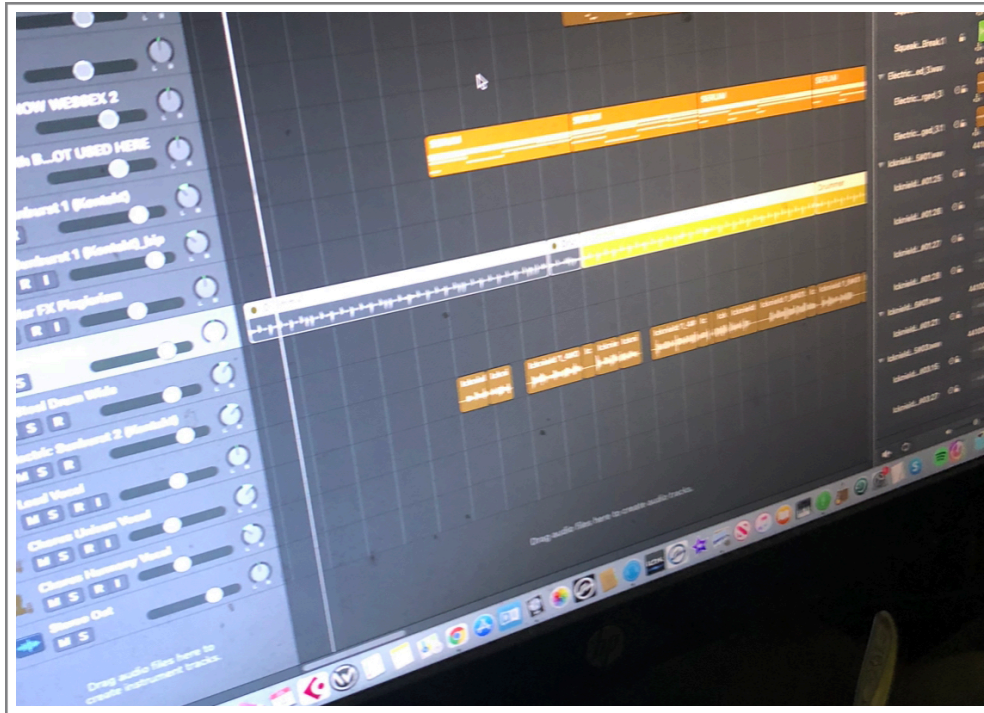
**V.3** From cradle to grave  
Vouchsafed to the end of our days  
A legacy to be saved  
A celebration, a coming of age

**Br.3** (Let's have) No frauds or snake-oil salesmen  
No tub-thumping, no phoney statesmen

**Repeat Ch.**

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## Beats in the Basement



V.1 Beats are pounding  
From the downstairs club  
Bass is pumping  
To the hubbub

V.2 White hot grooves  
From the inside  
Meets the cool of the evening  
On the outside

V.3 Hard-toned bodies  
With limbs entwined  
Slithering sinews  
Dance in time

V.4 Check your pulse  
Yes you're feeling alright  
Slick your hair back  
It's poseur's night

***(Key change)***

V.5 Half-price cocktails  
Vodkas and gins  
Keeping a watch-out  
For the Mickey Finns

V.6 It's happy hour here  
8 to 10  
So better get drinking  
Long before then

V.7 Faded tattoos  
Testosterone  
Even the doormen  
Checking their phones

V.8 Then some geezer's  
Starting a fight  
Flailing punches  
What a sight

***(Horns solo)***

V.9 Chatting up rituals  
Fancy a ride?  
Slippery nipple  
Then romance died...

V.10 In the rest room  
The ladies chat  
Powder their noses  
And chewing the fat

V.11 Upstairs they're dancing  
The laser lights drill  
Piercing the darkness  
Can't beat the thrill

V.12 Love the deejays  
Princes of cool  
Men of letters  
Where vinyl rules

***(Organ solo)***

V.13 Keep on drinking  
I suppose  
Time to go home?  
I don't know

V.14 Keep on partying  
Through the night  
The Dolce Vita  
Till morning light

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## *River Kemi*



**V.1** From an Arctic wilderness  
To the Gulf of the Baltic Sea  
From vast horizons  
To forests of evergreens

**V.2** This river flows through pines and hills  
Rapids flow to a stately calm and chill  
The undertow meets the shore  
And the ocean's still

### **Instrumental break**

**V.3** Wood cabins  
Line the banks and fields  
Through Finland's hinterland  
It's frontiers revealed

**Br.1** Where the midnight sun keeps guard  
And the midday night bites cold and hard  
It never ends

**Ch.1** River Kemi  
The sight and sound  
This beautiful highway, this hallowed ground

**V.4** Canada Geese passing this way  
Honking and hooting - coming here to stay  
Flapping like a scarecrow  
In the evening's sway

**Br.2** Where the midnight sun keeps guard  
And the winter's nights bite cold and hard

**Ch.2** River Kemi  
The sight and sound  
This watery highway, this hallowed ground  
Time stands still, we're just hanging around  
In this wilderness, there's not a soul here to be found



## Instrumental break

**V.3** A white glaze here in Lapland's snow  
Life hunkers down in twenty below  
This land's in deep-freeze  
The world goes slow

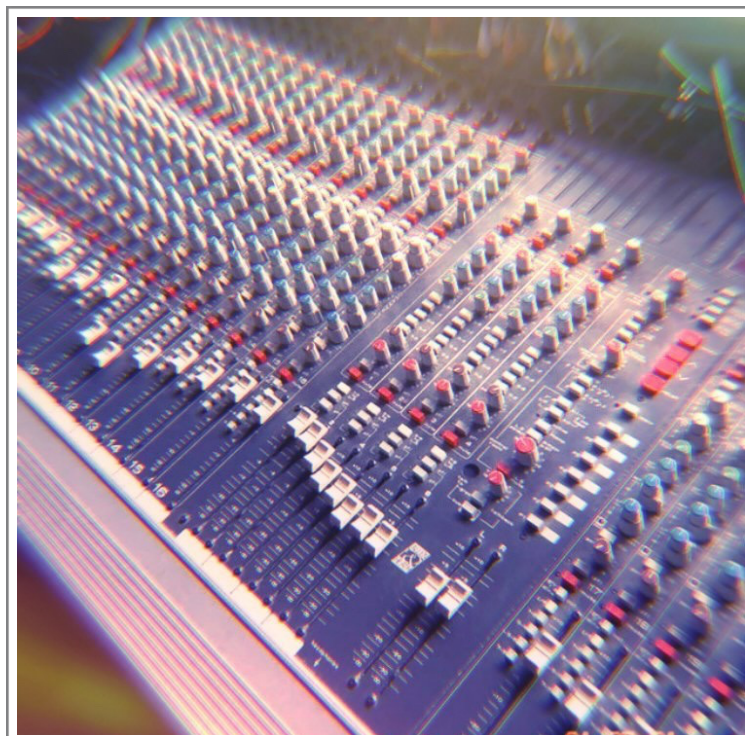
**V.5** Then the thaw and the rapids rage  
The roar of dams as they hold back the strain  
And record temperatures  
Start to hit the gauge

**Br.3** Where the midnight sun keeps guard  
And the midday night bites cold and hard  
It never ends

**Ch.3** River Kemi  
The sight and sound  
This beautiful highway, this hallowed ground

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## Synergy



**V.1** I see her playing her keyboard  
It's an early 80's synth I think  
Lots of buttons and switches and things  
Like a console on a spaceship

**V.2** Lots of buzzes and bleeps and rings  
I was soon fascinated  
Creating music and inventing sounds  
Like a musical toolkit

**Br.1** Humming to a bass line  
To a kick drum in 4/4 time

**Ch.1** Synergy of senses  
Spiralling strings and melodies  
And the spinning of technology  
In a constant 'whoosh' of energy

**V.3** Her screen then blinked and disappeared  
And the speakers growled  
Time to reboot and start again  
Time for crying out loud

**Br.2** Re-record the bass line  
Get back to the 4/4 time

**Ch.2** Synergy of senses  
Shimmering strings and melodies  
The grinding of technology  
And the buzzing and hissing of energy

### **Instrumental break**

**V.4** She's got a disk that's full of brand new sounds  
Like flutes and xylophones  
Or scary shrieks that sound like Halloween  
Or munchkins on the telephone

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## *In Liminal Space*



**V.1** From nowhere in particular  
Heading on to somewhere else  
A corridor without any doors  
Except in to itself

A staircase that climbs  
Down to a cellar below  
An empty precinct  
With nothing and nowhere on show

***Instrumental section***

**V.2** A school on vacation  
Empty in literal and metaphor  
A derelict inner-city location  
Nothing worth really fighting for

***Instrumental and spoken section***

**V.3** A park in the winter  
Where we're walking in the dark  
The back rooms in imagination  
The sensations feeling so stark

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*Wake Me Up*



**V.1**  
Drinking cocktails in a hotel bar  
The noise of the West End of London down below

I'm surrounded by opulence and wealth  
Lit by crystal chandeliers glow

*Ch.1*

A piece of luxury  
A hedonistic extravagancy  
Wake me up when it's time to get real  
Wake me up cos nothing's here for free

*V.2*

Velvet flock wallpaper lines the room  
With frames of past Prime Ministers and such  
The waiter's tray from 'A Whiter Shade of Pale'  
Like a lord, I'm enjoying it so much

*Ch.2*

A piece of luxury  
A hedonistic irresponsibility  
Wake me up when it's time to come down  
Wake me up cos nothing's here for free

*Solo and Middle 8th:*

White Russian  
Or Manhattan  
Whiskey sour  
Or an old-fashioned  
A Cosmopolitan  
Irish Coffee  
It all sounds like a hangover to me

*Ch.3*

A piece of luxury  
A hedonistic extravagancy  
Wake me up when it's time to get real  
Wake me up cos nothing's here for free

*V.3*

Time to head for the lavish carvery  
We'll eat the venison cooked with rosemary  
A fine coffee and a night-cap at the last



Sweet dreams, it's surely been a blast

*Riff to fade*

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## Last Orders



V.1 Drinks in the shade  
Of a north London bar  
It's back in the day and feeling good  
Our heads in the stars

Br.1 Down the Holloway Road - (where the)  
Smoke hangs heavy in the fog and toad

Ch.1 Gentlemen please  
It's time to call time you see

V.2 The jukebox sings to itself  
'Lola' by The Kinks  
And let's all drink  
To Lilly the Pink

Br.2 Wallpaper flock and chandelier  
Barmaid cute and barman cavalier

Ch.2 Gentlemen please  
It's last orders from me  
The end of a lifestyle  
It's time to call time you see

Instrumental break

V.3 Ghost of the landlord  
Please have one for yourself  
We'll celebrate time's passing  
And have a toast to the nation's health

Br.3 Seventies smoke and the fug of a pub  
Hurry up Harry to the rub-a-dub-a-dub

Ch.3 Gentlemen please  
It's last orders from me  
The end of a lifestyle  
It's time to call time you see

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*This is the latest album from The Meteor Shower now featuring the vocal talents of Steve Hunt. The music itself continues to metamorphose between albums - according to new ideas and new equipment and sounds - but the new professional vocals add a very welcome new element to the music. The songs / lyrics were written, programmed and produced by Matt Hall during and since the pandemic lockdown, and help was provided by the skilful vocal arrangements of Steve - who also provided welcome assistance in mixing and provided the string accompaniment at the end of 'In Liminal Space'. Let me know your feedback, and I hope you enjoy the new `album !*

