

Now, in Ginkgo Time
David Haley with James Brady, 6 August 2015

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With the rising sun
The nature of seasons and men
Leaves prepare to fall

Silence of a tree
As it falls in the forest
Witness the event

The space between leaves
Heaven and earth connected
The space between trees

2

Rutherford's principle
Half-life to extinction
Exponential decay

The greatest secret
Touching the ghost of matter
Quantum mystery

Eye on the matter
This wondrous alchemy
Myth becomes belief

3

Atomic power
Energy to industry
Faith is the machine

Growth trajectory
The momentum of progress
A chain reaction

Arms race, people die
Guns and bombs, jobs for the boys
But we said 'no more'?

4

Empires colliding
Brinkmanship out of control
Industry invests

Confused and corrupt
Wars come like powerful winds
Lust for destruction

Profoundly altered
A weapon most terrible
The sweeping silence

5

Harnessing the peace
Power of the universe
A rain of ruin

Silence of the bomb
As it falls on the city
Return to silence

Bomb falls, mushroom clouds
Rain falls and the dust settles
Radiation stays

6

Transforming matter
The stuff that stars are made of
Memories erased

The final solution
To the final question
Annihilation

Daisies mutating
Dead earth, poisoned water
Malignant legacy

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Six trees survived
A living testimony
Six ginkgos live on

Three score years and ten
Thriving on disturbances
Living on the edge

They know they did wrong
A spectacle of horror
Dissonant madness

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They know they do wrong
Such terrible sanity
Meanwhile, Climate Change

As temperatures rise
As populations migrate
As the seas expand

Lovelock's dilemma
The capacity to act
Endgame enigma

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Beneath the silence
Complicit in the City
Cancer of carbon

In futures markets
A perpetual fountain
The havoc of wealth

Forever buried
Proliferation of lies
As the truth decays

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The Energy Coast
Sustaining development
Northern Powerhouse

Waste repository
Half-lived in atomic time
Hazardous future

From the West Coast line
High Speed dreams runways to hell
The tracks of deceit

11

Beyond our control
One thing leads to another
Indeterminate

Focus our attention
The universe about us
Now is a lifetime

Turning the great wheel
Wonder and humility
Exist side by side

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Emergence of life
History begets futures
Now is all we know

Family of trees
Collapse to diversity
Resilience comes

Now, in ginkgo time
Living fossil memory
Life returns to hope