

## Round Table

Roger McGuinn

Seventeen feet across  
of the hardest oak to be found  
cut to the shape of the sun and the moon  
shine the color of ale  
and the knights of the living cross  
gathered all around  
raise their goblets and drink a toast  
to the search for the holy grail  
there was one well known for charity  
and whose voice was gruff  
and one who wielded a deadly sword  
with the finest lace on his cuff  
there was talk about a fearful ghost  
the bastard son of a king  
who died at the knee of his lordly host  
you could hear his armor ring  
still hear his armor ring  
pure in heart and mind,  
the key to all you seek  
those were the words of the mighty king  
as he looked deep into their eyes  
the best of you have wine and dine  
you're treacherous when you speak  
you look for a way to seal your faith  
but you find a compromise  
you have raised your voice in vanity  
you have turned your back on the poor  
you have closed your heart to the written word  
you defend the evil-doer  
now the time is come to clean your minds  
if the good is to prevail  
I offer this emerald to the one who finds  
our saviour's holy grail  
our saviour's holy grail  
banners in the sky, armor gleaming in the sun  
the sounds of the horses, trumpets and drums  
as they marched for the countryside  
and the villagers they rode  
be were silent everyone  
frightened mothers closed their shades  
and they made their daughters hide  
and then they came upon a community  
on a quiet summer's day  
but these travelers to Jerusalem  
saw nothing in their way  
and before the night fell on that town  
they had crucified the priest  
they robbed and pillaged and burned it down  
and kept heading toward the east  
they kept heading toward the east  
came to Israel stood shimmering in the sand  
thirsty men could close their eyes  
and see the milk and honey flow  
the blood of the infidel  
still fresh upon their hands  
they knocked the ancient doorway down  
like the walls of a Jericho

and they thanked their christianity  
for the temple they had seized  
and though no one found the holy grail  
the mighty king was pleased  
for he had changed the face of history  
and a legend had begun  
and little children were taught to see how  
the good lord's work is done  
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