

RATIONS

by John Shakespear

(song lyrics, written and released in 2020)

[\(listen\)](#)

With a metric ton of honey and a hundred bags of tea
And the orchids by the window leaning always toward the sea

With your father's record plater and the records that it plays
And the changes in the weather, make a record of our days

With our friends in California and their faces on the screen
And the abject paranoia that is cycling through our dreams

With the elemental confidence of someone who's never seen
Any real kind of pain before I sing, oh—

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With the ambulances ringing through the early days of spring
And the cherry trees exploding like they haven't heard a thing

With the memory of the morning when we drove out to the lake
You and me and all your cousins too, it was green and blue, green and blue

With the elemental confidence we learned in a Hollywood dream
And a creeping sense of emptiness we sing, oh—

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With our friends and with our lovers, with the neighbors down the street,
With the people that we used to know and the ones we've yet to meet

With the birds up on the rooftops and the last remaining bees
And the animals we've chased so long who are finally running free

With the elemental confidence of every breathing thing
And a voice that will not sputter out, we sing.