

Jerome Rothenberg
SHAKING THE
PUMPKIN

SONGS & OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES FROM THE
SOCIETY OF THE MYSTIC ANIMALS

Seneca

ENGLISH VERSIONS BY
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. . . but if everything's all right
the one who says the prayer tells them:
I leave it up to you folks & if you want to have
a good time, have a good time!



12 SONGS TO WELCOME
THE SOCIETY OF THE MYSTIC ANIMALS

(1)

T
h
e

The animals are coming

n
i
m
a
l
s

H E H E H H E H
H E H E H H E H
H E H U H H E H
H E H E H H E H
H E H E H H E H

(2)

T
h
e

The doings were beginning
o
i
n
g
s

H E H E H H E H
H E H E H H E H
H E H **U** **H** H E H
H E H E H H E H
H E H E H H E H

(3)

T
h
e

The doings were begun
o
i
n
g
s

H E H E H H E H
H E H E H H E H
H E H **U** **H** H E H
H E H E H H E H
H E H E H H E H

(4)

A

A she-loon too soon
h
e
-
l
o
o
n

H A H A H H A H
H A H A H H A H
H A H **U** **H** H A H
H A H A H H A H
H A H A H H A H

(5)

A
A he-loon soon too
e
-
l
o
o
n

H A H A H H A H
H A H A H H A H
H A H **U** **H** H A H
H A H A H H A H
H A H A H H A H

(6)

T
h
e
o
She drifts on the water
r e
i
f
t
s

H O H O H H O H
H O H O H H O H
H O H **U** **H** H O H
H O H O H H O H
H O H O H H O H

(7)

T
h
e
t
He drifts on her water
r o
i
f
t
s

H O H O H H O H
H O H O H H O H
H O H **U** **H** H O H
H O H O H H O H
H O H O H H O H

(10)

S H E W A S
C s h e s n a R
A w a s h n m U
M r r r e i e N
E r r u w n i N
I n n i a n n I
N n n g s g H N
H a s s r a I G
I h e c r s G A
G a m e r s H S
H i n H r h H S
H I G H r e E H
E H E Y u c Y E
Y H E Y H E Y Y

(11)

H E W A S
C h e w h n m R
A a s r e n e U
M r u n w i i N
E n n n a n n N
I n i n s g H I
N g a s r a I N
H h e c r s G G
I a m e u h H A
G i n H n e H S
H I G H n c E H
E H E Y n a Y E
Y H E Y H E Y Y

(12)

THE SONGS

I t h e t r i B
S s o n h e r E
T g s b e P n G
H e g i s U a I
E n h e o M m N
I r e P n P e H
R U M P g K H E
N K I N s I I R
A S i s b N G E
M t h e e S H P
E i r n g i H U
H a m e i s E M
I H I G n t E P
G H H E h h e K
H E E Y e e y I
H E E Y e e y N

. . . Now I'm dumping the whole bag of songs in the middle, & each of
you can sing whichever ones you want . . .

A SONG OF MY SONG, IN THREE PARTS

It's off in the distance.

•

It came into the room.

•

It's here in the circle.

CAW CAW THE CROWS CAW CAW

(1)

the crows came in

(2)

the crows sat down

TWO MORE ABOUT A CROW, IN THE MANNER
OF ZUKOFSKY

(1)

Yond cawcrow's way-out

(2)

Hog (yes!) swine you're mine

h i o o h
 i o o i
 g o o g
 h o h
 h h
 o THE OWL (1)
 y whose home was in
 a the hemlock
 h a
 o THE OWL (2)
 o could cure
 o by poison
 o
 o THE OWL (3)
 o & hollow tree
 o & whistling
 o
 o
 h h

HE ASKED THEM WHAT DID THEY KNOW &
THEY TOLD HIM

i know all
about these
different
villages is
all i know

highyohoweyyehheyhighyohoweyyehheyhighyohoweyyeh

i know
all about these
different
hills is
all i know

highyohoweyyehheyhighyohoweyyehheyhighyohoweyyeh

i know all
about
these different
rivers is
all i know

highyohoweyyehheyhighyohoweyyehheyhighyohoweyyeh

h	g a n e e w a	g a n e e w a h a	i
e			f
r			
			s
s	g a n e e w a	g a n e e w a h a	h
h			e
o			
e			s
s	g a n e e w a	g a n e e w a h a	h
			o
			u
c			l
o	g a n e e w a	g a n e e w a h a	d
u			
l			
d			m
			o
	g a n e e w a	g a n e e w a h a	c
b			k
u			
r			u
n	(i m e a n t h i s w o m a n)		s

OF THREE FRIENDLY WARNINGS THIS IS THE FIRST

A POEM ABOUT A WOLF MAYBE TWO WOLVES

he comes running
across the field where
he comes running

yoweeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee
eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee
yoweeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee

he comes running
along the hill where
he comes running

WHERE THE SONG WENT WHERE SHE WENT
& WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY MET

the song went to the garden	(heh heh heh)
the song poked all around the garden	(heh heh heh)
she went to the garden	(heh heh heh)
she went to the garden	(heh heh heh)
she went like crazy in the garden	(heh heh heh)
that's where she went	(hah hah hah)

HEY WHEN I SING THIS SET OF 4 SONGS
LOOK WHAT HAPPENS!

hey when i sing
hey it can help her
yeah it can yeah it's so strong
hey when i sing
hey it can raise her
yeah it can yeah it's so strong
hey when i sing
hey her arm gets straighter
yeah it can yeah it's so strong
hey when i sing
hey her body gets straighter
yeah it can yeah it's so strong

A SONG ABOUT A DEAD PERSON – OR WAS IT A MOLE?

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

I was going thru the big earth

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

I went thru this big earth

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

I was going thru the big earth

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

I went thru this big earth

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

I was going thru the big earth

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

I went thru this big earth

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

I was going

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

th

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

YOHOHEYHEYHEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

ANOTHER SONG ABOUT THAT SAME DEAD PERSON
OR MOLE – WHICHEVER IT WAS

YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
I was going thru the big smoke
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
I went thru this big smoke
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
I was going thru the big smoke
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
I went thru this big smoke
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
I was going thru the big smoke
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
I went thru this big smoke
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
I was going
oke
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH
YOHOHEYHEYEYHEYHAHYEYEHAAHHEH

OF THREE FRIENDLY WARNINGS THIS IS THE SECOND

h	ganeewa	ganeewaha	i
e			f
r			
			s
s	ganeewa	ganeewaha	h
h			e
o			
e			s
s	ganeewa	ganeewaha	h
			o
			u
c			l
o	ganeewa	ganeewaha	d
u			
l			m
d			o
	ganeewa	ganeewaha	c
b			k
u			
r			u
n	(i mean this woman)		s

YO OH HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH
YO HO HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH

We made a mistake in this song

YO OH HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH
YO ^HO HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH

We'll have to straighten it out

YO OH HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH
YO OH HEYA YAH

This time we'll do it right

WE GOT EVERYTHING WE NEEDED HERE
AND AINT IT SOMETHING!

herezsometobaccozhere
herezsometobaccozhere
herezsometobaccozhere
herezsometobaccozhere
herez**sometobaccoz**here
herezsometobaccozhere
herezsometobaccozhere
herezsometobaccozhere
herezsometobaccozhere

herezsomepigmeatzhere
herezsomepigmeatzhere
herezsomepigmeatzhere
herezsomepigmeatzhere
herez**somepigmeatz**here
herezsomepigmeatzhere
herezsomepigmeatzhere
herezsomepigmeatzhere
herezsomepigmeatzhere

herezsomekettlezhere
herezsomekettlezhere
herezsomekettlezhere
herezsome kettlezhere
herez**somekettlez**here
herezsomekettlezhere
herezsomekettlezhere
herezsomekettlezhere
herezsomekettlezhere

herezsomemussshzhere
herezsomemussshzhere
herezsomemussshzhere
herezsomemussshzhere
herez**somemussshz**here
herezsomemussshzhere
herezsomemussshzhere
herezsomemussshzhere
herezsomemussshzhere

WHEN HE SAYS SO WE DANCE IN ALL
DIRECTIONS—WOW!

YOHOWEYAH
YOHOWEYAH
YOWEYHEEE
YOWEYHEEE
YOWEYHIGHEEEHEH
YOHOWEYAH
YOWEYHEEE
FROM THE
SWAMPS IS
WHERE ? I
COME FROM
YOWEYHIGHEEEHEH
YOHOWEYAH
YOHOWEYAH
YOWEYHEEE
YOWEYHEEE
YOWEYHIGHEEEHEH
YOHOWEYAH
YOWEYHEEE
BEHIND THE
EARTH IS
WHERE ? I
COME FROM
YOWEYHIGHEEEHEH
YOHOWEYAH
YOHOWEYAH
YOWEYHEEE
YOWEYHEEE
YOWEYHIGHEEEHEH
YOHOWEYAH
YOHOWEYAH
YOWEYHEEE
YOWEYHEEE
YOWEYHIGHEEEHEH
BEHIND THE
EARTH IS
WHERE ? I
COME FROM
YOWEEI'MDANCING
WOW

O
F
T
H
R
E
E
F
R
I
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N
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N
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I
S
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E
T
H
I
R
D

h e r	ganeewa	ganeewaha	i f
l e g g i n g s	ganeewa	ganeewaha	s h e
c o u l d	ganeewa	ganeewaha	s h o u l d
b u r n	ganeewa	ganeewaha	m o c k
	(i mean this woman)		u s

TWO SONGS ABOUT FLOWERS & WHERE I WAS WALKING

P L E N T Y O F F L O W E R S
h h
i e
i e
i P L E N T Y O F F L O W E R S e
i W H E R E I ' M W A L K I N G e
i e
i i
g g
h h
W H E R E I ' M W A L K I N G

C A T T A I L S A R E G R O W I N G
h h
i e
i e
i C A T T A I L S A R E G R O W I N G e
i W H E R E I ' M W A L K I N G e
i e
i i
g g
h h
W H E R E I ' M W A L K I N G

I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND MYSELF OUT HERE
& ACTING LIKE A CROW

i didnt think i'd
shake the pumpkin
not just here & now
not exactly tonite
yahoondaanaaheee
yohaaaheeeeyooho
hohgaahaaaayeyhey
yohaaaheeeeyoohoho

i didnt think i'd
rip some meat off
not just here & now
not exactly tonite
yahoondaanaaheee
yohaaaheeeeyooho
hohgaahaaaayeyhey
yohaaaheeeeyoohoho