

Freedom Tears

(1985 composition uploaded November 25, 2004)

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**Looking Downriver from Effigy Mounds National Monument
Six Miles South of the Harpers Ferry, Iowa Lock and Dam #9**

FREEDOM TEARS

(1985)

New Orleans doorkeeps the flood
Carnival conductor of our mystery train
Blue gods born of swamp and blood
Their gospel songs arose from mortal pain
Upstream wheeled the voodoo sounds
Mardi Gras to midwestern towns

Northwinds seized the southern soul
Church bells tolled for that rock he rolled

Old Man River full of fire
Your freedom tears aflame with something higher
Rockets rise to torch the skies
One mourning dove descends
A lonely crier of the judgement that comes before we're born
From childhood through the bodystorm
Till fears of death drag our passions down
And we hug our graves
Moundbuilding slaves

Mississippi RiverSon
Lion-roaring magician
Feathered headdress ecstasy
Angel-flight from Christmas Tree
I sing within my soaring dream
Eagle shadow dancing on serpentine

From Memphis to the Northstar State
Upriver I have churned
Hard against the current just to make this sternwheel turn
Wildblue is my waterdream
Wildblue as the western sky
Like Huck Finn and his Brother Jim
Freedom tears are the tears I cry
I cry
I cry