

Ode to 2011

It seemed there were times in the year that has passed
That there were some moments where life moved so fast
That everyone stopped, stared, and at once did ask
Oh when will this year be through?

For truly this year was one for the books
The rise of some heroes, the fall of some crooks
While the rest of the world exchanged startled looks
Oh when will this year be through?

Dictators could hear as the people did sing
That democracy's good, revolution's the thing
Their winter of discontent was an Arab Spring
Oh when will this year be through?

Indeed, global protest shone in the spotlight
It seemed like everything was occupied some night
Folks set up their tents and tucked in for a fight
Oh when will this year be through?

Will these protests carry through to the end?
Perhaps change will come, as they recommend
But this uprising could prove simply a trend
Oh when will this year be through?

Distraction from protests and falling regimes
Was as simple as a royal wedding it seems
If only we could go long fairytale dreams
Oh when will this year be through?

Recall Japan hit by a titanic wave
And aftershocks proved to be equally grave
In the end it required a nuclear save
Oh when will this year be through?

Mother Nature sure seemed quite active this year
Catastrophe bonds took a kick in the rear
Let's hope 2012 isn't quite so severe

Oh when will this year be through?

MF Global also did fast bite the dust
Corzine must have needed to kick off some rust
For his firm's goal seemed to be "billions or bust"
Oh when will this year be through?

But Chapter 11 filings did not stop right there
In addition to companies, some cities did err
To the point where their debts were beyond repair
Oh when will this year be through?

Volatility's been great for some trading geeks
Markets duly tank whenever Europe speaks
Want to gain on a short? Give the mic to the Greeks!
Oh when will this year be through?

For sure, in the news Greece did dominate
They hadn't seen this since Alexander the Great
But now there were new enemies at the gate
Oh when will this year be through?

And then 'twas the folks of Italy and Spain,
With debts that these nations could never sustain,
That sought an umbrella well after the rain
Oh when will this year be through?

Merkel's at her wits end with the periphery's plight
Things have gotten so bad, when they leave for the night,
She pleads "Last one out please shut off the light"
Oh when will this year be through?

But most have grown tired of the ongoing talks
As Europe's great ship crashes into the rocks
They need a dead sprint while everyone walks
Oh when will this year be through?

Remember when Congress did look at their state?
It became a partisan debt ceiling debate
So a supercommittee would decide on their fate

Oh when will the year be through?

And that supercommittee, just how did it fare?
Though taxes and cuts were tossed in the air
It was a swing and a miss with typical flair
Oh when will this year be through?

Obama must have thought his world had been hexed
It could be his worst year (if not for the next)
Perhaps just one term in the history text?
Oh when will this year be through?

There's much to be done in the financial sphere
Who knows where we'll be at this time next year
The worst case of all is if we stay here
For finally, this year is through