



Take To The Skies. Album sleeve by Keaton Henson





Brixton, London, UK. January 2019 – Tom Pullen



## Essay 4:2 THE ONE TRUE COLOUR

In his 2006 book *The God Delusion*, Richard Dawkins states ‘We are all atheists about most of the gods humanity has ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further’. There are an estimated 4,200 different religious groups currently existing on Earth,<sup>1</sup> and that’s not even counting different sects; for instance there are 41,000 denominations of Christianity alone.<sup>2</sup> Is there any other phenomenon as divisive as religion?

On every corner of the globe parents are indoctrinating their children into specific faith groups. In effect, they are teaching their children to be close-minded about the nature of the universe and indifferent or even hostile to the wide spectrum of other faiths and ideologies. ‘The One True Colour’ is a reference to the egotistical and often inflammatory way each religion asserts its own deity as the *only* true deity. The metaphor of visually limiting ourselves to one frequency of light is not a wholly unreasonable comparison, especially when you consider how faith can stunt our perception and outlook.

After talking to many people about losing their religion and having experienced an early epiphany towards atheism myself, the chorus of this piece portrays the discomfiting panic that may occur at first – as with a dismantling of any perceived truth – but also the blossoming of enlightenment and fulfilment that follows upon freeing oneself from the chains of doctrine.

If there is one thing that is certain in this life, it’s that when someone declares that they know huge truths about the universe without citing proof – and usually reversing the burden of proof by stating that *you* cannot prove *them* wrong – they should be immediately ignored. This is what the first two lines of the second verse attempt to express; you do not know how the universe came to be, you do not know if a higher power is looking after you (whilst simultaneously ignoring the majority of impoverished Africa then?) and you do not know the wishes, whims or indeed the sexual preferences of this higher power! Someone who claims this knowledge with no proof is nothing but a charlatan and will never aid discourse or progress.

The truth is we don’t even know what 95% of the universe actually is yet!<sup>3</sup> But humanity is trying to understand, it is progressing, it is learning. Science does not claim to have all the answers, but with determination and modesty it perseveres in trying to uncover them. Those, on the other hand, that tell you they do have all

# THE SIGHTS

Are you staying awake for the lift off, tonight?  
You'll never believe the sights tonight, the sights tonight, the sights

Mr Magpie,  
You got distracted by the gleam the diamonds, as you flew by  
But their dull glint does not impress  
When there's a billion stars in the sky

I sit, gripping my pen like a bread knife, as I write:  
"I'm leaving this earth for the stars tonight"  
Now I'm running to board the flight

Now I boldly go into the great unknown  
And like Jean-Jacques Rousseau  
I give you my mind to be blown  
Now I boldly go into the great unknown  
Like Marcus Cicero  
"While there's life, there's hope"

I'm searching far and wide, to find a planet to orbit  
Far and wide, I wanna scan and explore it  
Far and wide, you're my new planet to orbit  
So fire up the rockets

It's over now  
And I'm a little bit petrified of what's to come  
Yeh my head's a bit stir fried

It's over now  
And I'm a little unqualified  
But fire up the rockets