

# Graham Parker, I Discovered America

There was smoke up to my eyeballs  
Poison burned my throat  
But i said i'd keep on going  
When everyone said don't  
With my bony-chested t-shirt  
Some stolen guitar licks  
Navigating by dead reckoning  
In 1976  
And when the mighty chains of darkness  
Had me on the ropes  
Everyone said quit now  
That's when i found hope

So please don't tell columbus  
Don't tell his queen for sure  
That i had the accurate compass  
And i discovered America

Well the guy in the five and dime store  
Said it ain't anywhere around here  
Take your business elsewhere  
Along with your mad idea  
So i looked inside your closet  
And your broken tv set  
You said that you were born here  
But you hadn't found it yet

So please don't tell columbus  
Don't tell his queen for sure  
That i had the accurate compass  
And i discovered America

Well i knew one day she'd let me in  
I knew i'd get the girl  
And live in a town called veteran  
Pork capitol of the world

So please don't tell columbus  
Don't tell his queen for sure  
That i had the accurate compass  
And i discovered America

Well they've dammed the yangtse river damn it  
There'll be hell to pay  
But i guess that's what you do  
When the yangtse river gets in your way  
But i had that positive feeling  
I knew i was on the right track  
When a flat earth society member  
Told me i must turn back  
He said i'd reach the abyss  
And keep on going down  
So i gave him my last pencil  
And i flattened him to the ground  
Then an army of christian soldiers  
Broke through the ranks and charged  
With their ice cream vendor buddies  
And their milquetoast rearguard  
They had wheelbarrows full of elastic  
And paper mache hearts  
And things i did not recognize  
Impaled upon their darts  
And when the mighty chains of darkness  
Had me on the ropes

Everyone said quit now  
That's when i found hope  
Yeah that's when i found hope

So please don't tell columbus  
Don't tell his queen for sure  
That i had the accurate compass  
And i discovered America