

**VT6**

# **A Journey Around My Skull**

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**Based on *A Journey around my Skull, Heavenly Report and The Circus* by Frigyes Karinthy**

**Script**

**Translated by Ágnes Lehóczky**  
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## 2. Merlin Oldtime

I saw that pain on earth  
standing grief and ache  
I went up to the front  
for the sake of thousands' faiths

hiding behind the throne  
I was there, the Caesar's mate  
as I descended from a cloud  
you laughed scornfully  
sneered mockingly  
but for my blood you had to pay

drawn against what the skies confess  
a lonesome journey to no-man's land  
I'll bring you back mysteries of skies  
so you'll understand

high up there I played that song  
with the whole of my heart for you  
knowing that down there  
only the show matters to you

I broke all those empty rules  
as a wizard for your life  
exposing all taboos  
I have given up for no value  
for a hollow prize, for a hollow prize

here I am and the earth gets hurt  
here and there never see my turn  
but caught again by my endless desire  
to get preserved

drawn against what the skies confess  
a lonesome journey to no-man's land  
I'll bring you back mysteries of skies  
so you'll understand

drawn against what the skies confess  
a lonesome journey to no-man's land  
I'm ready to undo those fastened doors  
so you'll understand

### **3. The Circus**

high up there I played that song  
with the whole of my heart for you  
knowing that down there  
only the show matters to you

I saw all earthly pain  
enduring grief and ache  
I went on to the front  
for the sake of thousands' faiths

## 4. Invisible trains

infernal noise around  
iron wheels rotating  
rumbling over the streets  
with tons of suffering

detect it  
cover it  
forget it  
that's what life's about

but the fear's there  
that the soul will wake  
and I fear it will  
interfere

fumes of genii writhing  
a mirrored vacant face  
in spinning vertigo  
my skull breaks

and the fear's there  
I'll be caged  
it won't let me  
while I am alive

I can't see it  
but I hear it  
the train  
rotates inside

## **5. An Encounter with the Dying**

A fading patient on the last bed  
his strange pallid face is worn  
I have seen this vacant face before  
I know, yes I know... this is my own!

Drawn against what the skies confess  
six hundred years in the wake of Dante  
of a journey to Heaven sailing through Hell  
I will report, they are waiting for me

## **6. Aurora borealis**

Towards the north, towards the north  
The iron splinter turns  
The equator's radiant flames could not  
Force it to return  
Through the warm flow  
Of the equator's waves  
Towards the north, towards the north  
In the footsteps of its fate

## 7. Throbbing stars

Windows gaping dark  
stars are shining white  
I am nearly blind  
But I can see the light

A knife across the night  
piercing through the sky  
behold this bridge of life  
beating like a heart

Like the heart  
calling me  
leading me!

Listen to the tune  
the throbbing of my heart  
a pulsating fool  
a terrific star

A knife across the night  
piercing through the sky  
behold this bridge of life  
beating like a heart

Tortured and in pain  
here I stand contained  
willing to give now  
my anguished life away...

The sky signalled me  
the picture is composed  
across the radiant night  
take my burning soul

I go on if you please  
angels spread your wings  
high across the sky  
feel my deep desire

As pure as winter snow  
hold close my life  
breathe on its shielding  
translucent ice

A knife across the night  
piercing through the sky  
behold this bridge of life  
beating like a heart

## 8. Avdelning 13 (Blood Flows Inside)

Cold iron, thunder, the machine whimpers  
a gigantic steel-drill piercing my skull  
Through an open gap blood flows inside  
as the bursting sky diabolically cries

Armoured silence, where is the pain?  
The table's rolling, time ticks in vain  
Filmy light mutely flies  
angelic hands tightly bind

The drill strikes again, screwing my head  
an electric trepan will decide if I am dead  
Oh give me endurance in this endless fight  
through an open gap blood flows inside

A quiet voice asks softly  
how I am. Very well, certainly...

Tied to a wooden board I will be murdered  
with wild satisfaction, sadistic slay, slaughter  
Rip my skull; gash my brain till it exhales  
with your terrifying bloodthirsty desire

## 9. The Wire Runs

The wire runs across the valleys and the hills  
through the continent to reach the home land  
carrying human words spreading frantic news  
to arrive home was what I really planned;  
Was what I planned!

In all the cafés of my city I'm the news  
half of my country's anxious that I'll die  
in all the papers they are reading I'm up here  
lying on a table with my brain sliced;  
My brain is sliced!

Man, look around this is the underworld  
now you can taste the fruit of all the pain  
well, You've been brave enough to hold the flame  
so you're allowed to be on the title-page

I'm standing on the top of this tower I had built  
the crowd is astounded staring me out  
now I'll let that old song burn away  
but suddenly the building crumbles down;  
It crumbles down!

You stop for a minute but the time will not pause  
new sensation's pulsing through the wire  
by the afternoon that page is turned  
for new gossip and newer desire;  
Newer desire!

Man, You've been brave enough to take the pain  
and deserved a few hours on the front-page.

## 10. Avdelning 13 (Chrysanthemum)

Why's all silent? Where is the pain?  
Why's all still? Why...?  
Two white flowers in front of me  
Is this the end, can I really see?

But what do I see?

But maybe after all  
I haven't died quite yet  
the binding belts all disappeared  
and I'm resting on my bed

The sky had thrown me back  
to present her mystery now  
to open up your eyes to her  
as heaven's messenger

Only for a while I stood  
at the centre of parade  
but it was enough for me  
and now I can write my book of faith

And if this tower crumbles now  
and the spectacle goes wrong  
it's all the same, the hope remains  
that you could hear my ancient song

I hope...

# 11.Space and time

[instrumental]

## 12. Homeward (The Mystery of the Sky)

In sharp flash of colours  
the picture is sliced  
the fog is dissolving  
on the island of light

I can't see what you seek  
But you've found home at last

Promises of heaven  
by this sun-coloured dawn  
were all tempting lies  
our ship is carried along

I hunted for treasures  
I've lost them in vain  
But I regained my life  
in return for my pain

I can't see what you seek  
But You've found home at last

Wrecks in the deep  
bruised by the waves  
but I escaped this storm  
and a new island awaits

learn to walk on plain paths  
in your new born life  
you will find your home  
just let go of your pride...  
let go of your pride...