The Many and the Few

Jack Warshaw 2022

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A People's rallying song for now. The struggle of mighty and humble, rich and poor, master and slave. Inspired by Shelley's epic poem "The Mask of Anarchy", condemning the Peterloo Massacre of 16 August 1819.

Rise like Lions after slumber In unvanquishable number Shake your chains to earth like dew Which in sleep had fallen on you Ye are many - they are few.

I've travelled far and wide, many treasures did I find But always saw the mighty and the humble side by side The humble, very many, the mighty, very few With privilege and power from the work of many just like you

> Yes, it's always the many, always the many Always the many who work for the few

Down the ages do the mighty cut the deals and take the yield Keep the best, sell the rest back to the hands that turn the wheels Raise prices to the sky, cut wages to the bone If the many dare to question they evict us from the land they own

It was always the many, always the many Always the many who paid for the few

Still wanting more and more, they sent the many off to war For the plunder they'd secure when the spoils were spoken for But the enemy were conscripts too, they wanted freedom just like you Forced to battle by decree of kings and aristocracy

It was always the many, always the many Always the many who fought for the few Now the rulers we elect all profess they would protect us Our enemies would get us, their advances must be checked Bear the hunger, bear the fighting, bear the dying, bear the pain If you live, you'll sustain the pleasure of the few again

Once again it's the many, always the many Always the many who die for the few

I have travelled far and wide and its's opened up my eyes Wealth and power still resides with the bosses and their lies They've never had to earn their keep or sweat to pay their way The few need the many, but the many don't need them today

No more will the many, no more will the many No more will the many, live for the few



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