

my sweet maize

corn

goddesses

and maidens

prancing around in the moonlight

direct the planting with some kind

of wild and crazy incantations

everywhere you look

boy, those were the good old days

coming all the way

from tehuacan valley

i guess it was about 7000 b.c., they said

spreading north around 3000 b.c.

this was all proven of course

poking around in some kind of bat caves

down around new mexico

finding the grinding stones

and all that old pod corn

each kernel enclosed in a husk of its own

scientifically carbon dated

approximately 5605 to 5931 b.c.

by carbon 14

yeah, all the way from the gulf of mexico

to the gulf of st lawrence

coming from yucatan and quintana roo

this is the stuff that built nations

cherokee

fed on corn

developed an alphabet

in a lifetime what other cultures

took generations to do

and free trade

yeah ! we had free trade way back then

mayans

took it

600 miles up the coast

by sea-going canoe pushed by 25 paddlers

and aztecs

exacted

it as tribute
from just about everyone in the valley
in the pueblos
men grew it
and women ground it
yeah ! those were the good old days
when men were men and women were women
none of this "uh, i guess i'll go out and find myself," routine.
1493 sent over there to europe
with tomatoes, white potatoes, tobacco
quinine and chocolate
but let's get back to the exciting stuff
stole on a daring raid
by pawnee soldiers
who added insult to injury
made the vanquished
and conquered lug the bags
loaded and full on their backs
into the village
before becoming
slaves
yeah! those were the good old days alright
but now it's a lot simpler
sold at supermarkets
everywhere
loeb's, iga
you know the kind
packed, canned, creamed, popped and frozen
by mccain's, libby's, green giant, aylmer and canada fancy
white corn, mexicorn, cream style corn
whole kernel, valley crisp they say
delmonte summer, frozen
peaches and cream
and the super sweet variety
you name it, they done it
as if it were found
just last month
at the corner
store

my honorable culture
has come down to this
kind of a lousy deal you might say
but that's the way things go
and that's the way things change
i guess
and maybe i should too
main stream it they told me
whatever the hell
that means

i guess the trouble
is i'm probably the only one
left remembering these things
things about the people
and about the good old days
and about
my
sweet
sweet
maize

wayne keon