

Diggers Song (The World Turned Upside Down)

Leon Rosselson

In 1649 to St. George's Hill,
A ragged band they called the Diggers came to show the people's will
They defied the landlords, they defied the laws
They were the dispossessed reclaiming what was theirs

"We come in peace" they said, "to dig and sow"
We come to work the lands in common and to make the waste ground grow
This earth divided we will make whole
So it will be a common treasury for all

The sin of property we do disdain
No man has any right to buy and sell the earth for private gain
By theft and murder they took the land
Now everywhere the walls spring up at their command

They make the laws to chain us well
The clergy dazzle us with heaven or they damn us into hell
We will not worship the God they serve
The God of greed who feed the rich while poor folk starve

*We work we eat together we need no swords
We will not bow to the masters or pay rent to the lords
Still we are free though we are poor
You Diggers all stand up for glory, stand up now!*

From the men of property the orders came
They sent the hired men and troopers to wipe out the Diggers' claim
Tear down their cottages, destroy their corn
They were dispersed but still the vision lingers on

You poor take courage, you rich take care
This earth was made a common treasury for everyone to share
All things in common, all people one
We come in peace – the orders came to cut them down

(Repeat italicized verse)

occupella.org file revised 5/17/12

