“LET US ENLIGHTEN YOU” // BOOK & LYRICS EXCERPT

SCENE 3: CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY IN LONDON

A large fairground teeming with tents and people.

MUSIC 04: “LET US ENLIGHTEN YOU”

EMCEE
And now, the moment you've all been waiting for...England's hottest thinkers of 1666...THE PHILOSOFIVE!

PHILOSOFIVE
ENLIGHTEN YOU...

Drums kick in and the harpsichord gives way to a sexy electronic sound. THE PHILOSOFIVE sing, in even sexier harmony.

PHILOSOFIVE (CONT'D)
GOTTA BUILD IT, BREAK IT
MAKE IT SOMETHING BETTER
IMPROVE IT, MOVE IT, MAKE IT RIGHT
GOTTA TAKE APART AND PUT IT BACK TOGETHER
LET US BRING YOU THE LIGHT

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LET US ENLIGHTEN YOU

PASCAL
GO MAKE SOMETHING NEW
GO ON, SURPRISE ME
DON'T YOU PLAY BY THE RULES
I'LL LAY DOWN A TUNE,
NOW HARMONIZE ME
LET ME GIVE YOU THE TOOLS
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO PROVE
WELL, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE
EVERYBODY'S INVITING YOU
SOPHIE finds ISAAC in the crowd, selling concessions. LEIBNIZ is nearby, passing out pamphlets.

SOPHIE
(yelling over the loud music)
Isaac! Hi!

ISAAC
(surprised)
Sophie! Girls don't usually come to these things when I invite them.

SOPHIE
Oh.

ISAAC
Nah, it's cool. Beef jerky?
(holds out some rubbery-looking meat)
Just kidding.

SOPHIE
Everyone who's anyone is here!

ISAAC
And also lots of nobodies waiting to be somebodies. Here's the official schedule.

SOPHIE
Show me around?

ISAAC
Yeah! My shift's basically over anyhow.

He takes her hand and pulls her into the crowd.

PASCAL
Are you ready to get enlightened?!?

CROWD
WOOOOOOO!!!!
Upcoming attractions: Our headliner this weekend, on the mainstage at 2 o'clock it's the Philosofive's very own JOHNNY LOCKE!

LOCKE waves to the crowd.

Giving a lecture titled:

"14 Reasons Why YOU Should Be An Empiricist."

In the Copernicus Memorial Arena at 3:30 pm, we have ROBBIE HOOKE presenting:

"Telescopes vs. Microscopes: Bigger Isn't Always Better."

And in the Outdoor Amphitheater at 4 o'clock, you know him, you love him, you have his tapestry pinned to your bedroom wall, it's BOBBY BOYYYYLE!

The crowd goes wild.

"When You Hear The Relationship Between Pressure and Volume, Your Jaw Will Drop!"

Now let's GET THIS PARADIGM SHIFTED!

The PHILOSOFIVE sing again, now playing instruments they've invented.

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BOYLE
WHEN I’M STUMPED METAPHYSICALLY,
LOOKING ATCHA QUIZZICALLY,
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

PHILOSOFIVE
(whispered)
WHAT IS HE GONNA DO?

BOYLE
I GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD,
PLUCKIN’ OUT THE TONIC CHORD,
WHAT DO I KNOW TO BE TRUE?

PHILOSOFIVE
(whispered)
WHAT DOES HE KNOW TO BE TRUE?

BOYLE
I GOTTA STICK TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT
LOGIC IS INVINCIBLE,
SCIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME TO SEE.
BUT HOW TO TINKER WITH THE
MECHANISM TIL THE ANSWERS BECKON
IS A MYSTERY TO ME!
BREAK IT DOWN NOW...

PHILOSOFIVE
EACH OF US, WE SEE THE WORLD
FROM DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW

PASCAL
FOR NOTHING IN DOUBT
WAS EVER SETTLED WITHOUT
AN ARGUMENT OR TWO

BOYLE
For instance! Take Hooke and Wren. Recently they’ve been debating whether the universe has a purpose.
An argument begins between HOOKE and WREN.

WREN
And I posit thusly that the cosmos is composed of an all-consuming clockwork—

HOOKE
And I counter my dear colleague with... IS NOT!

WREN
Furthermore, I suggest that this divine mechanism is a deterministic predictor of all earthly occurrences—

HOOKE
Let me be so bold as to counter that YOU'RE a deterministic predictor—

WREN
Would you let me finish!

HOOKE
FRAUD!

WREN
STIFF!

HOOKE
CRITIC!

WREN
CYNIC!

HOOKE
CHARLATAN!

WREN
HARLEQUIN!

HOOKE
NAVEL-GAZER!

WREN
DEVIL-RAISER!
HOOKE
THE WORLD IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

WREN
YOU ARGUE FOR THE SAKE OF IT!

HOOKE
BUT NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF A RANDOM SET OF
CAUSES AS THEY SURGE
AND FLOW
THUS
THE WORLD IS UNPREDICTABLE
IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU

WREN
IF YOU COULD MAKE A TEST OF IT
FOR HOUR AFTER HOUR THEN THE
LAWS THAT WOULD EMERGE
WOULD SHOW
THAT
THE WORLD IS A MACHINE!

HOOKE
BUT EACH MACHINE CAN BE IMPROVED

WREN
THE WORLD IS A MACHINE!

BOTH
SO THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION
IS TO MAKE SOMETHING NEW!

The end of the argument leads the music into a key change, something new has been made! The PHILOSOFRIVE burst back in, and the crowd is losing their minds.

PHILOSOFRIVE
GOTTA BUILD IT, BREAK IT, MAKE IT
SOMETHING BETTER
IMPROVE IT, MOVE IT, MAKE IT RIGHT
GOTTA TAKE APART AND PUT IT BACK TOGETHER
LET US BRING YOU THE LIGHT
LET US ENLIGHTEN YOU

BOYLE
IT'S THE BEST TWOPENCE YOU EVER SPENT
COME AND SEE THE WONDER OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT!
TAKE A TICKET, STEP INTO THE TENT
GET YOUR BODY READY FOR:
ENLIGHTENMENT!
THE MOST SPECTACULAR EVENT
DON'T GO MISSING OUT ON THE ENLIGHTENMENT!
TAKE A TICKET, STEP INTO THE TENT
GET YOUR BODY READY FOR--

LOUIS
---MOI!
King Louis XIV enters with his manservants REX and DOVER, and his entourage.

LOUIS
C'est moi-- King Louis Quatorze, le roi-soleil de Versailles...

(breathily)
Versailles...

LOUIS
And I am here to announce: L'Académie des Sciences has arrived. You may now be impressed.

REX and DOVER hold up signs that say: "APPLAUDISSEMENTS!"

LOUIS
We’re looking for the hottest provocative thinkers to join the party. If you would like to see what mon Académie has cooked up in our delicious little scientific ovens, come pay us a visit. Rex, bring me a scepter to drop.

REX
(handing Louis the scepter)
Oui, Louis.

LOUIS
Louis out.

LOUIS drops the golden scepter like a mic and flounces away.

SOPHIE
That’s the French Académie des Sciences?

ISAAC
It’s King Louis XIV’s new venture. Started his own academy this year to compete with London’s Royal Society. But so far it sounds like a scam. He has no real ideas to back it up yet, just smoke and mirrors.

BOYLE
Well...it looks like the sun has come out in England, folks, am I right?

LOCKE
We're living in the future! Disrupting the Renaissance and ushering in the scientific revolution!
WREN
And we want you!

HOOKE
Think you've got what it takes to make quintet a sextet?

BOYLE
Enter the ROYAL SOCIETY SEARCH for your chance to be the next member of the Philosofive! Compete with the rising minds of England in front of us and the Royal Society. One shot to prove your genius.

PASCAL
London, do you have what it takes? I said… do you have have what it takes London!?!?!

PASCAL
IF YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO NEVER DOES WHAT YOU'RE TOLD STARING INTO THE SUN NOW'S THE TIME TO BE AUDACIOUS AND BOLD THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE YOU'VE GOT THE TICKET IN HAND, SO HOP ON BOARD WHAT'S UNKNOWN DOESN'T FRIGHTEN YOU NOW YOU'RE A PART OF THE BAND YOU BETTER STRIKE A CHORD LET US ENLIGHTEN, LET US ENLIGHTEN YOU!

All instruments drop out, only Boyle stands alone onstage. As this section progresses, the PHILOSOFIVE join back in, building in harmony, as do other philosophers at the festival, all jumping up onstage with instruments they've built, to make a giant, glorious, and bizarre orchestra.

ALL
GOT A LIGHT? YOU BETTER BRIGHTEN IT YOU GOT A FIGHT? KEEP FIGHTING IT YOU GOT THE WORLD, GO ENLIGHTEN IT YOU GOTTA BUILD IT BREAK IT MAKE IT SOMETHING BETTER

PHILOSOFIVE
GOTTA BUILD IT BREAK IT
MAKE IT SOMETHING BETTER
IMPROVE IT MOVE IT MAKE IT RIGHT
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ALL
GOTTA BUILD IT, BREAK IT
GOTTA MOVE IT, SHAKE IT
GOTTA MAKE IT RIGHT, RIGHT
GOTTA BUILD IT
GOTTA SHAKE IT
GOTTA MOVE IT
GOTTA MAKE IT RIGHT, RIGHT
LET US ENLIGHTEN YOU!