



As I dreamed out one evening
By a river of discontent
I bumped right into old Tom Paine
As a-running down the road he went
He said, "I can't stop right now, my son,
King Georgy's after me
He'll have a rope around my throat
And they'll hang me on the Liberty Tree"

And I will dance to Tom Paine's bones
Dance to Tom Paine's bones
Dance in the oldest boots I own
To the rhythm of Tom Paine's bones
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He said I just spoke about freedom
Justice for everyone
Ever since the very first word I spoke
I've been looking down the barrel of a gun
Well they say I preached revolution
Let me say in my defence
All I did wherever I went
Was to talk a lot of common sense"

Well old Tom Paine he ran so fast
He left me standing still
And there I was, a piece of paper in my hand
Standing at the top of the hill
It said, "This is the Age Of Reason
These are The Rights Of Man
Kick off religion and monarchy"
It was written there in Tom Paine's plan

And I will dance to Tom Paine's bones . . .

Old Tom Paine, there he lies Nobody laughs, nobody cries Where he's gone or how he fares Nobody knows and nobody cares

But I will dance to Tom Paine's bones . . .

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## Thomas Paine (1736-1809)

Best remembered as the author of "Rights of Man" and "The Age of Reason", Paine was born in Norfolk in 1736 and spent part of his early life in Sussex. At the invitation of Benjamin Franklin, he migrated to America in the early 1770s and fought in the American Revolution, writing a series of pamphlets, "Crisis in America" & "Common Sense" which had a tremendous influence on the development of the Republic. He served in several governmental posts before going to France where he was elected to the National Assembly following the French Revolution. Like Thomas Muir, he opposed the execution of Louis XVI and was imprisoned for a year before returning to America where he died in 1809. It is rumoured that his remains were brought back to England but their whereabouts are now completely unknown.