

### 3. Miriam's Song

Where are you going? What will you see?  
Mornings so golden, and spring-times so green  
And deep in the night, a flame burning bright  
Leading you onward to find your dream

Speak to the stars  
Listen to time  
Follow the omens  
Watch for the signs

And you'll know where you're going, and who you'll meet  
Longings so holy, and lovings so deep  
The whole world conspires to fulfill your desires  
Leading you onward to find your dream

Speak to the stars  
Listen to time  
Follow the omens  
Watch for the signs

And you'll know where you'll going, and who you'll be  
Your destiny's calling: the path is at your feet  
Your destiny's calling: the path is at your feet



When my granddaughter Miriam was born, I was reading *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho. I am grateful to him for his words, some of which are set into in this song.

How can we carry the idealism and enthusiasm of childhood into adulthood? How can we 'follow our path', as Coelho puts it? I believe that the secret may be in not suppressing our emotions.

Recently, I thought of a definition that I would like to propose for the word 'adulthood': 'the moment from which, for the first time, a child cries not only from sadness, but from joy.' For me, this is a moment of alchemical transformation: the individual suddenly experiences a whole new understanding of what it is to be a sentient being. It is this willingness to feel the bitter-sweetness of life – to cry from joy and sorrow – that, I believe, allows us to live in the world with child-like spontaneity and trust. And even if that trust is broken, it is our tears that lead us onward – not only by easing our pain, but by helping us re-vision our own, unique path forward.

This song is dedicated to my granddaughters, McLaren and Miriam, in memory of all the joy we've shared.

