

Ultima

lyrics and music by GoGo¹

[spoken]

People keep saying it's the end days,

Skynet's won², we've run the maze.

In the center is Room 101:³

Can we boldly go⁴ when all is done?

All the things I tried to save

Are just putting flowers on a mouse's grave.⁵

Game over, man,⁶ and everybody dies

And there's nothing to eat but lies, lies, lies.⁷

[end spoken]

I won't be just a worker in the heart machine⁸

I'm going to see the light of day.

I'm going to crack the world's shell⁹ is what I mean

Put on my wings and fly away.¹⁰

Everyone asks me am I bad witch or good¹¹

Or one of the genetic elite¹²

But I am telling you I'm Lilith's Brood¹³

And we have never known defeat!

We're from Ultima Thule¹⁴

And we include me and you

She's the hero we need

Cause she makes us heroes too!

Just living day to day

Learn to rise up and say

She's the hero we need

¹ It is, perhaps, notable that while the music and lyrics are original, the song *can* be sung to an abbreviated version of "Born This Way" by Lady GaGa.

² *Terminator* series of films and television series.

³ 1984.

⁴ *Star Trek*.

⁵ Reference to "Flowers for Algernon."

⁶ *Aliens* (film).

⁷ Possibly a reference either to *Soylent Green* or the game *Portal*.

⁸ Probably a reference to the "Heart Machine" in *Metropolis*.

⁹ *Shoujo Kakumei Utena*? (Possibly a reference to the famous "chick speech.")

¹⁰ This could be a reference to too many things to list.

¹¹ *Wizard of Oz*.

¹² It is unclear as to whether she is referring here to paranormals or normals.

¹³ Possibly a reference to the work of Octavia Butler (*Xenogenesis* Saga).

¹⁴ Reference to any one of a number of classic science fiction stories as well as a pun on the Ultimate's name.

To sing Hero of Heroes¹⁵ today!

She's the Ultimate test!
In her Prometheus rests,¹⁶
She's the hero we need
Because we give her our best!

[spoken]

At Yoshiwara's we'll dance and fight¹⁷
Always alone in the night,¹⁸
But reaching out, touch hand to hand,¹⁹
Galadriel²⁰ or Servalan.²¹
Is the Slayer²² really born this way?²³
Or Sleepless walk both night and day?²⁴
Or maybe we'll stand up and see:
You have no power over me.²⁵
[end spoken]

We'll come down like angels on Tokyo²⁶
And we don't need roads where we're going.²⁷
At the end of the world²⁸ can you tell me where
And in what way the time is flowing?²⁹

I can build my friends³⁰ but I can't build you
A place for opossums to call their own.³¹
But don't look back, don't blink I'm telling you³²
It's dhoom³³ again but we are flown!

¹⁵ The song "Hero of Heroes" was the theme song for the *Swordsman* trio of Hong Kong films and was extremely popular during the movies' era.

¹⁶ Reference to either the actual myth or *Homeward Bounders*.

¹⁷ Despite the name, this is not an anime reference, but instead to *Metropolis* (the Fritz Lang film) as this is the name of the nightclub in several of the central plot scenes.

¹⁸ *Babylon 5*, possibly (intro speech).

¹⁹ Referent, if any, too vague to be clear.

²⁰ *Lord of the Rings*, goddess/good character.

²¹ *Blake's 7*, villain.

²² *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*?

²³ Almost certainly a reference to Lady Gaga.

²⁴ Reference to the novels by Nancy Kress.

²⁵ *Labyrinth*.

²⁶ *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, most likely.

²⁷ *Back to the Future*.

²⁸ Definitely *Utena*, given earlier reference.

²⁹ *Doctor Who* reference? Unclear.

³⁰ Possibly a reference to *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, or any one of a number of more obscure films, including the 1972 *Silent Running*.

³¹ This strange line is probably a reference to James Tiptree Jr.'s famous story "The Women Men Don't See." But of course it's hard to be sure.

³² Probably *Doctor Who*.

A hero right through
Like flying snow in bamboo³⁴
She's the hero we need
Cause she makes us heroes too!

Take my ansible³⁵ call
'Cause it's for one and all
She's the hero we need
Cause she makes us stand tall!

She won't be suppressed
Or sent into the West³⁶
She's the hero we need
Because we give her our best!

[spoken]
We need a hero that's worth our while
Whether Wonder Woman or Trio³⁷-style
So put on your clothes, or dye your hair
And sing electric grandmother³⁸
From Alderaan³⁹ to Whileaway⁴⁰
The winning move is not to play.⁴¹
They tell us we're beyond the pale
Bionic-made⁴² or automail,⁴³⁴⁴
Whether you are you or me
Virtual or karakuri⁴⁵
Rise up and greet Red Dawn⁴⁶ today
Like Nausicaa⁴⁷ we'll fly away;

³³ This peculiar spelling is original to the lyrics. A reference to *Dhoom 2*?

³⁴ Obscure. Possibly a reference to the film *Hero*, in which a character called Flying Snow engages in a swordfight among trees and falling leaves. Unfortunately, the trees are not bamboo.

³⁵ Ursula K. LeGuin (*Rocannon's World*, *The Dispossessed*). An "ansible" is an instant long-distance communication device. The term is also used in other science fiction.

³⁶ Possibly a reference to J.R.R. Tolkien? It is difficult to tell.

³⁷ *Heroic Trio*?

³⁸ Either "I Sing the Body Electric," (Bradbury) or "The Electric Grandmother" (short film based on same).

³⁹ *Star Wars*.

⁴⁰ *The Female Man*, Joanna Russ.

⁴¹ *War Games*?

⁴² *Bionic Woman*?

⁴³ *Fullmetal Alchemist* (anime or manga).

⁴⁴ Both of the previous references may be to Lady GoGo's artificial legs.

⁴⁵ This term appears to be borrowed from Melissa Scott's *Dreamships* and *Dreaming Metal* books, where it refers to human-shaped robots.

⁴⁶ Reference obscure. It seems unlikely that it is referring to Communism, but the media reference is unclear.

⁴⁷ *Nausicaa and the Valley of the Wind*: it is unclear as to whether this is referencing the Miyazaki film or the manga.

To Iskandar⁴⁸ we'll fly away;
On ships that sing⁴⁹ we'll fly away.
[end spoken]

She's returned from the blue
And Zaha'dum⁵⁰ too--
She's the hero we need
Cause she makes us heroes too!

Dark Lords big and small⁵¹
We will spit on them all
She's the hero we need
Cause she makes us stand tall!

Stand tall, stand tall, stand tall...
[repeat final choruses]

⁴⁸ *Star Blazers*.

⁴⁹ Anne McCaffery reference, possibly.

⁵⁰ *Babylon 5*.

⁵¹ Reference too general to be certain but this might, of course, be a callout to the *Harry Potter* series. Or to any fantasy setting, really.