

👉 Read the text and match the words in **bold** with the definitions

1. Another way of saying something (also known as) \_\_\_\_\_
2. a person who has been sent to a foreign country to teach their religion to the people who live there \_\_\_\_\_
3. to cut off someone's head \_\_\_\_\_
4. a group of people who sing together \_\_\_\_\_
5. to say magic words that are intended to bring bad luck to someone \_\_\_\_\_
6. to clean especially a floor by using a brush to collect the dirt into one place from which it can be removed \_\_\_\_\_

👉 Read the text and complete the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets

## What is the meaning of Viva la vida?

Even though the band \_\_\_\_\_ (not explain) the meaning of the lyrics a variety of interpretations \_\_\_\_\_ (be) proposed for this song.

The first interpretation is about the Catholic Church. Some people say that this song is about the fall of the Roman Catholic Church. At one point the church \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the major world power, but it \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) from grace and is seen by many as an "unholy" institution. There are references to: St. Peter, Roman Calvary **Choirs**, and **Missionaries**. Apparently, the band \_\_\_\_\_ (create) the album while touring Latin America and Spain, some of the most Catholic places on Earth.

The second interpretation is about Napoleon / King Louis XVI / French Revolution. Because of the artwork on the album and some of the references to **beheading**, many believe it refers to events from the time of the French Revolution. Some think it refers to the death of Napoleon. He \_\_\_\_\_ (rule) and \_\_\_\_\_ (hold) power over his enemies, but then he \_\_\_\_\_ (fall). He was going to lose his head to the guillotine. Others think it \_\_\_\_\_ (can) refer to the beheading of Louis XVI and the "sound of drums" refers to his approach to the guillotine, while revolutionaries \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for his head.

The third interpretation is about Chris Martin's fall from grace: some think it is simply about how he \_\_\_\_\_ (have) power or dreams when he was younger, but they all \_\_\_\_\_ (escape) him now that he is older.

The song is about a man who \_\_\_\_\_ (have) power and \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) everything, even his own life. It fits well in the biblical story of the fall of humanity (Adam in particular) from his status as king of the world into the **curse** of death.

God \_\_\_\_\_ (create) Adam to “rule the world,” including the “seas,” but Adam \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) from power when he and Eve \_\_\_\_\_ (obey) the voice of the serpent (**a.k.a** Satan). Now, he **sweeps** the streets he \_\_\_\_\_ (own). He is a slave not a king. He \_\_\_\_\_ (have) power over his enemies and \_\_\_\_\_ (have) the responsibility to take care of the garden and crush the serpent’s head, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not do) it. Now, he is a dead king, and there is a new king, Satan, over the World. One minute he \_\_\_\_\_ (have) the keys of the kingdom, then his kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ (collapse) because it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) on moving sand. In the first chorus, we see that when he \_\_\_\_\_ (rule) the world there \_\_\_\_\_ (be) honest words, but since then there are not honest words anymore. It is surprising that he \_\_\_\_\_ (go) from being God’s representative over the world to what he is now. The revolutionaries of Satan, sin and death wait for his head/death. He is a sinner destined to death who will not be given access to God’s Kingdom. But, in the last chorus he says that Peter will call his name, and there is hope of a reversal of his destiny. Humanity may not be lost after all.

Because the song is so depressing, it is ironic that the title is “Long Live Life.” Perhaps he believes Life will ultimately triumph over Death. Indeed, the entire album, which is called “Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends,” is dealing with the themes of life and death. Some of the titles to the tracks are: *Life in Technicolor*, *Cemeteries of London*, *Lost!*, and *Death and All His Friends*.