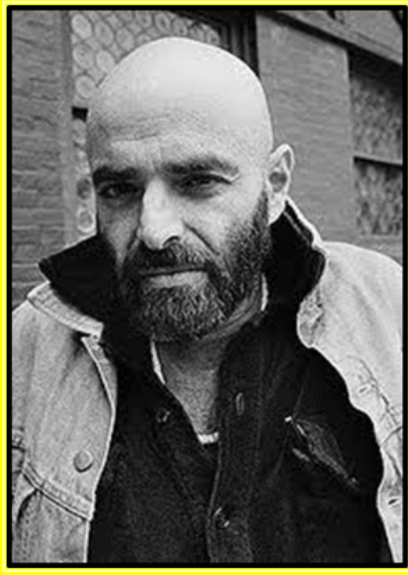


**\_By Shel Silverstein**

**Stanza Wise Explanation**



**Shel Silverstein  
(1930–1999)**

**Sheldon Allan Silverstein was an American writer, poet, cartoonist, songwriter and playwright. He is known for his cartoons, songs, and children's books. He styled himself as Uncle Shelby in some works. His books have been translated into more than 30 languages and have sold more than 20 million copies.**

---

## Stanza 1

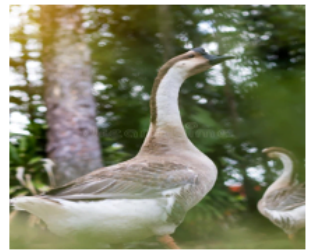
**A long time ago, when the earth was green  
and there was more kinds of animals than  
you've ever seen,  
and they run around free while the world  
was bein' born,  
and the loveliest of all was the Unicorn.**



**The poet tells the tale of the lovely unicorns that existed long time ago when the earth was green. He says that there many kinds of animals that you could ever imagine. They were free and running around when the world was being born. He says that the unicorn was the loveliest of all animals.**

## Stanza 2

**There was green alligators and long-neck geese.  
There was humpy bumpy camels and chimpanzees.  
There was cats and rats and elephants, but sure as  
you're born  
the loveliest of all was the Unicorn.**



**The poet says that there were green alligators and geese with long necks everywhere. There were humpy camels and chimpanzees too everywhere. There were cats, rats and elephants everywhere but the unicorns were the loveliest of all animals.**

## Stanza 3

**But the Lord seen some sinnin', and it caused him pain.  
He says, 'Stand <sup>Questions and Answers</sup> back, I'm gonna make it rain.'  
He says, 'Hey Brother Noah, I'll tell ya whatcha do.  
Go and build me a floatin' zoo.'**



**But the Lord was in a lot of pain to see his people sinning.  
God decided to make it rain for a very long time i.e. forty days  
and nights and destroy the Earth. God told Noah to build an Ark  
or a floating zoo in which a pair of each kind of animal would be  
housed.**



## Stanza 4

**And you take two alligators and a couple of geese,  
two humpy bumpy camels and two chimpanzees.  
Take two cats and rats and elephants, but sure as you're born,  
Noah, don't you forget my Unicorn.'**



**The Lord told Noah to take a couple of geese, camels,  
chimpanzees, cats, rats and elephants in the ark but not  
to forget his unicorn.**

## Stanza 5

**Now Noah was there, he answered the callin'  
and he finished up the ark just as the rain was fallin'.  
He marched in the animals two by two,  
and he called out as they went through,**



**Noah build the ark as the Lord commanded and he completed the task and it started to rain heavily.**

**Noah marched the animals into the ark two by two and he called out as they went into the ark**

## Stanza 6

**'Hey Lord, I got your two alligators and your couple of geese,  
your humpy bumpy camels and your chimpanzees.  
Got your cats and rats and elephants - but Lord, I'm so forlorn  
'cause I just don't see no Unicorn.'**



**Noah tells the Lord that he managed to get two green alligators, geese, humpy bumpy camels, chimpanzees, cats, rats and elephants on board the ark.**

**But Noah tells the Lord he couldn't see the unicorn.**

## Stanza 7

Ol' Noah looked out through the drivin' rain  
but the Unicorns were hidin', playin' silly games.  
They were kickin' and splashin' in the misty morn,  
oh them silly Unicorns.

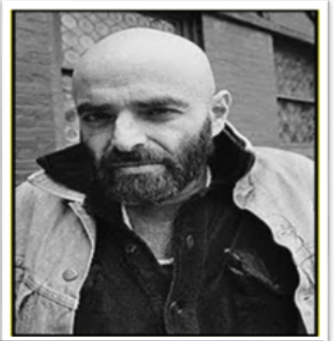


When the Lord commanded Noah to build his ark and it was time to set sail, the unicorns were off frolicking in the water enjoying themselves, ignoring Noah's calls.



## Stanza 8

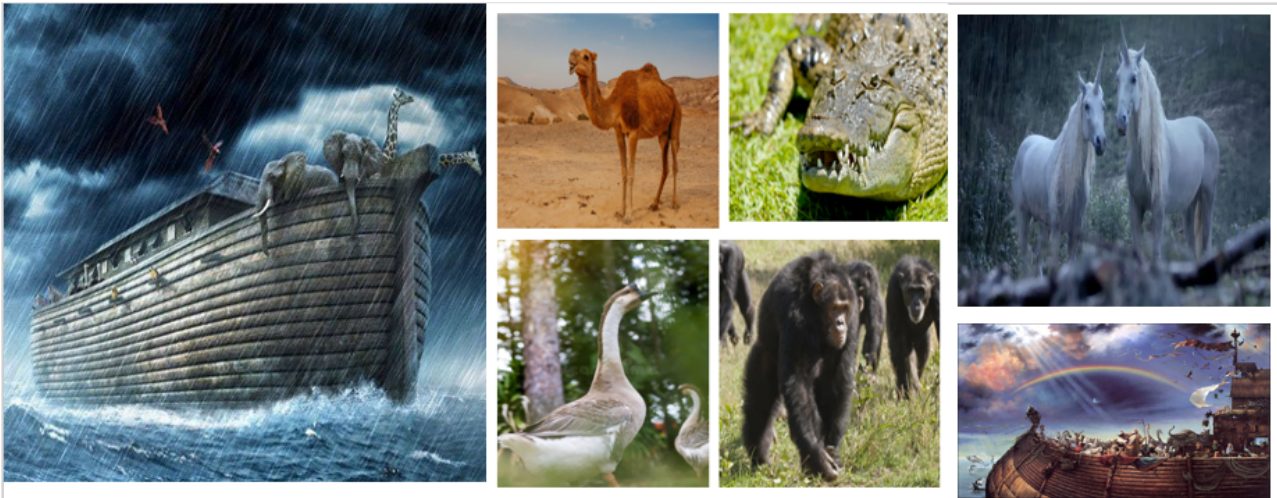
The goat started goatin', and the snake started snakin',  
the elephant started elephantin', and the boat started shaking'.  
The mouse started squeakin', and the lion started roarin',  
and everyone's abourd but the Unicorn.



The poet says that goats, snakes and elephants boarded the ark.  
Even the mouse and the lion boarded the ark except the unicorn.

## Stanza 9

**There as green alligators and long-necked geese  
Some humpty backed camels and some chimpanzees  
Noah cried, "Close the door because the rain is falling  
And we just can't wait for no unicorns"**



**There were green alligators, long-necked geese, some humpy bumpy camels and some chimpanzees on board.**

**Noah said loudly that they needed to close the doors as it was raining heavily and they could no longer wait for the unicorns to come on board.**

## Stanza 10

**The ark started moving, and drifting with the tide  
The unicorns looked up from the rocks and they cried  
And the waters came down and sort of floated them away  
That's why you never see a unicorn to this very day**

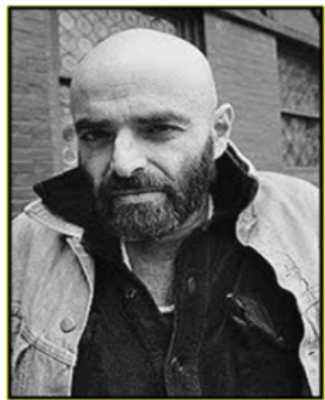


**The ark started moving and drifting along with the tide.  
The unicorns saw the ark moving from the rocks and cried but  
the waters came down and they floated away.  
As we know, the unicorns never made it on board, so we don't  
see them around anymore.**



## Stanza 11

**You'll see green alligators and long-necked geese  
Some humpty backed camels and some chimpanzees  
Some cats and rats and elephants, but sure as you're born  
You're never gonna see no unicorns.**



The poet says that you will see green alligators and geese with long necks everywhere.

Some humpy camels and chimpanzees , some cats, rats and elephants but the unicorns were nowhere to be seen.

They could not get on board the ark.