

Song of the Martians

Lyrics: Gary McGath, Copyright 1996

Music: "It Never Rains on Mars" by Mistie Joyce

(Note: I wrote this song shortly after the spectacular failure of the Russian Mars launch, and after reading an article in The Economist about the unusual run of failures in probes aimed at Mars. This song proposes an extremely unlikely explanation for these failures.)

 Dm Gm Dm
We are an ancient people, and we dwell beneath the ground.
 Dm Gm A
We have a fearsome neighbor, and we know that if we're found
Gm Dm Gm A
We may face extinction, for they're skilled at winning wars;
 Dm A Dm
We're frightened of the humans; may they never come to Mars.

They've started sending probes out through the silent void of space.
Their next one might discover the great secret of our race.
If they reach our planet with their princes, kings, and czars,
We know we will be conquered; may they never come to Mars.

But we have made a weapon, and they can't detect our rays.
We sabotage their space probes, make them suffer long delays.
They think it's bad fortune, but they can't deny their scars,
Though still they launch another, as they seek to land on Mars.

Time may yet be on our side, for greener worlds they seek.
They only see the surface, and they find it dry and bleak.
If we stop their visits till they go on to the stars,
We'll live free of the humans, and they'll never reign on Mars.