

# They're Not Laughing At Me Now

Elvis Costello

Tell me, how does it feel?  
In the hour of deception and the moment of pretend  
To be scorned by those rank and those unkind strangers  
You were fool enough to call your friends

Will you say as the curtain descends?  
"They're not laughing at me now"

When the last of the garlands and laurel crowns  
And fine bouquets have all been swept away  
You were lost in the smokescreens of cavalcades  
And accolades instead of traitor's pay

Where will you find the courage to say?  
"They're not laughing at me now"

You could shake my hand  
If I could unfold my fist  
If I were a gentleman  
If I were a Christian  
But I wouldn't risk it  
Why would you?  
You know my name now  
And it's "Mister" to you

Now we're back at the start, no forgiveness in your heart  
You turned your coat and asked me to turn my cheek  
And it's all in a language  
That I can understand but never bring myself to speak

I'll leave it to you, if you dare  
It's a peal too appalling to bear  
I wonder if you're here or you're there  
They're not laughing at me now

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