

## Why Can't a Man Stand Alone?

Elvis Costello

Why can't a man stand alone?  
Must he be burdened by all that he's taught to consider his own  
?  
His skin and his station, his kin and his crown, his flag and his nation  
They just weigh him down  
You know pride is a sin that we tend to forgive  
But it gets hard to live  
When you don't have the love in her heart to begin with  
Why can't a man stand alone?  
Why can't a woman be just what she seems?  
Must she be tarnished by men who can only be men in their dreams?  
When beauty meets ignorance they shout in the street  
Repeating their offer to each girl they meet  
The respect that she needs, it isn't a gift  
But it gets hard to lift yourself up  
When you don't have the strength to begin with  
Why can't a woman stand alone?

Why can't a baby sleep at night and dream of the time to come  
And never fear the world outside the touch of someone very near  
Why can't a man stand up?  
Why can't a man stand up?  
Why can't a man stand alone?