

If I hadn't been a quiet introspective kid  
If I hadn't been a nerd wouldn't have met with him  
If we hadn't observed we be the best of friends  
That preferred the spoken word to the toke and binge  
If momma hadn't died when I was young  
Would me and sis have been so tight from jump  
If dad had not lost his mind to a disease  
Would I be up here askin ya'll to notice me

In the dark times didn't know where the path went  
I was close to the edge like Grand Master Flash said  
It was the hands of my friends who held me back

Yes

Without them I'd MJ keep slide'n backwards  
Or be a hypocrite like some others have been  
If that and the other hadn't happened  
I don't know that I'd be Brer Rabbit  
Askin how many ifs between hero and has-been?

If I had only known that I would be a lamb to the slaughter  
now I know

If I hadn't grown up in the 80's  
Experiencing the various things that made me  
Would I still be standing center stage  
Trying to innovate new ways to demonstrate  
If mommy daddy hadn't turned off Mork and Mindy  
To inform us divorce was pending  
Would him and me have spent these 23 years in a frenzy  
Moving back and forth with such forceful energy  
I remember when I was a little baby  
Lying there alone on my pillow casing  
Upset already I could feel the aging  
The urge to return was debilitating  
And maybe I'm still afraid and need to  
Cry a little harder for the world of play things  
Stop looking back on these silly day dreams  
Sing along with me if you feel the same way

If I had known what awaited was unplanned  
If I had known the blade was in a loved one's hand  
If I had known of the possible injury  
If I had known the altar was meant for me  
Now I know nobody can predict events  
Now I know there's cracks in the picket fence  
Now I know that something else can exist  
Now I know a life can be built from this  
If I had known emotions would still remain  
If I had known that time wouldn't heal the pain  
If I had known the intent of the injury  
If I had known the altar wasn't meant for me  
Now I know there's treasure hidden in these scars  
Now I know there's presence in an empty yard  
Now I know what it took for me to survive  
Now I know where to go to become alive