

## Not Needed

Gil Scott-Heron

He had had two cups of coffee  
Two cups more than he was allowed  
But he never been one to take advice  
And no sense in starting now  
Light up a cigarette, sit down  
Turn on the radio  
You can't be in no hurry 'cause  
There ain't no place to go  
They could call this a retirement  
They could call the wall the floor  
But they always call collect  
When you're not needed anymore

When you're not needed  
Things ain't like they were before  
When you're not needed  
You're not needed anymore  
When you're not needed  
Hard to say just what's in store  
When you're not needed  
You're not needed anymore

Spent a thousand frozen midnights  
Headed north on slow freight trains  
Drinkin' brandy from a thermos  
When the boss could not complain  
Check the mornin' papers  
See what's runnin' at the track  
Your sister called two nights ago  
And you swore you'd call her back  
Your day just seems to close in  
Like a room that's got no doors  
When the plain and simple truth is  
You're not needed anymore

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When you're not needed  
When you're not needed anymore  
When you're not needed  
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When you're not needed  
When you're not needed anymore

There was no use being bitter  
It was over with and done  
And if the struggle was to finish  
He supposed that he had won  
But it seems that when you slow down  
Things can catch up with you then  
Get the rest you always needed  
And you feel the rust set in  
The only thing worse than being old  
Is being old and poor  
'Cause they'll use you and discard you  
When you're not needed anymore

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