

Why Should People Stay the Same

Harry Chapin

You were chasing him down Broadway on that white-hot July
'Cause he thought he'd got a message from some holy man on high
He said his chance had finally come he'd done it on his own
He had to leave his past behind the first thing that had to go--
was
Home

You put him in an airplane and packed your life and clothes
You learned all the lessons that the suitcase lady knows
He said, "Something still drags me back from where I'm heading
to,"
You didn't really understand, 'til the next thing that had to go
o--was
You

Some things are sacrificed and some things remain
Some things bring pleasure and some things bring pain
Some things must pass away, and some things are regained
When the whole world is changing, why should people stay the sa
me?

You saw his picture in the paper, that disarming boyish smile
You sometimes had to swallow hard as you saw him on the dial
You heard him on a talk show, he was hearing no one else
Then suddenly you knew too well, the last thing he'd left behin
d--was
Himself

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So you pulled yourself together, friends and family said you sh
ould
You discovered you were doing things you never knew you could
And someday when he calls you, which you know of course he'll d
o
You'll just send him away again, 'cause the last thing you fina
lly
Found--was
You