

## Flag

Joe Henry

Take that noise out in the street,  
This rubble out from under my feet  
No rest for the weary in here,  
And make a fuss, you're a volunteer.  
These days, they lord above me  
Growing mean as they grow shorter,  
Like a flag on a closing border now...  
Closing right behind you

In a crowd down off the hill,  
Full of bloodlust and good will,  
We carried pride above our heads  
Like a flag we could cheer to wake the dead.  
And when we could go no further,  
And were drowning on a desert,  
We raised our flag to follow the breath of God...  
But it was blowing every which way.

I loved you long before I knew  
Love is something one decides to do.  
My vanity and fear conspired belief  
That love's just a mirror for a thief.  
So when you held me tight against you  
And I mistook your heart for thunder,  
And like a flag, hid behind and under you...  
Who could blame me?

(When you held me tight against you  
And I mistook your heart for thunder,  
Like a flag, I hid behind it  
Like a flag, I'm hiding under you)  
Now I hang my clothes out to dry  
Like waves of surrender, they fly.  
The whore of this world looks old and played  
Still she peeks from the alley  
like a waiting bride's maid.  
Laugh or bleed as you need to  
Who of us doesn't know already?  
Every flag flies like confetti now...