

# By The Rivers Dark

Leonard Cohen

By the rivers dark  
I wandered on.  
I lived my life  
In babylon.

And I did forget  
My holy song:  
And I had no strength  
In babylon.

By the rivers dark  
Where I could not see  
Who was waiting there  
Who was hunting me.

And he cut my lip  
And he cut my heart.  
So I could not drink  
From the river dark.

And he covered me,  
And I saw within,  
My lawless heart  
And my wedding ring,

I did not know  
And I could not see  
Who was waiting there,  
Who was hunting me.

By the rivers dark  
I panicked on.  
I belonged at last  
To babylon.

Then he struck my heart  
With a deadly force,  
And he said, 'This heart:  
It is not yours.'

And he gave the wind  
My wedding ring;  
And he circled us  
With everything.

By the rivers dark,  
In a wounded dawn,  
I live my life  
In babylon.

Though I take my song  
From a withered limb,  
Both song and tree,  
They sing for him.

Be the truth unsaid  
And the blessing gone,

If I forget  
My babylon.

I did not know  
And I could not see  
Who was waiting there,  
Who was hunting me.

By the rivers dark,  
Where it all goes on;  
By the rivers dark  
In babylon.