Claude-Michel Schonberg "Who Am I?"

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[VALJEAN]

He thinks that man is me He knew him at a glance! That stranger he has found This man could be my chance!

Why should I save his hide? Why should I right this wrong When I have come so far And struggled for so long?

If I speak, I am condemned.

If I stay silent, I am damned!

I am the master of hundreds of workers. They all look to me. How can I abandon them? How would they live If I am not free?

If I speak, I am condemned.

If I stay silent, I am damned!

Who am I?

Can I condemn this man to slavery Pretend I do not feel his agony This innocent who bears my face Who goes to judgement in my place Who am I?

Can I conceal myself for evermore?
Pretend I'm not the man I was before?
And must my name until I die
Be no more than an alibi?
Must I lie?

How can I ever face my fellow men?
How can I ever face myself again?
My soul belongs to God, I know
I made that bargain long ago
He gave me hope when hope was gone
He gave me strength to journey on

[He appears in front of the court]

Who am I? Who am I? I am Jean Valjean!

[He unbuttons his shirt to reveal the number tattooed to his chest]

And so Javert, you see it's true That man bears no more guilt than you! Who am I?

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