

Cream

"Crossroads"

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I went down to the crossroads, fell down on my knees.
Down to the crossroads, fell down on my knees.
Asked the Lord above for mercy, "Save me if you
please."

I went down to the crossroads, tried to flag a ride.
Down to the crossroads, tried to flag a ride.
Nobody seemed to know me, everybody passed me by.
Well I'm going down to Rosedale, take my rider by my
side.

Going down to Rosedale, take my rider by my side.
You can still barrelhouse, baby, on the riverside.
Going down to Rosedale, take my rider by my side.
Going down to Rosedale, take my rider by my side.
You can still barrelhouse, baby, on the riverside.
You can run, you can run, tell my friend-boy, Willie
Brown.*

Run, you can run, tell my friend-boy, Willie Brown.*
And I'm staying at the crossroads, believe I'm sinking
down.

* My original transcription used "friend boy", after
viewing some sheet music I changed it to "friend poor".
This is a common transcription of Eric's rendition,
however after listening closely on the remastered
"Those Were the Days" it is definitely "friend-boy" as in
Johnson's take 2 version (which I'm listening to as I
write this as I have at last purchased "The Complete
Recordings" box set). The confusion is caused by Eric
mimicing Johnson's accent on the "boy". Friend-boy is a
dialectic substitute for boyfriend and Willie Brown was
a very generous teacher of the blues to Robert.
It is also interesting how Eric has substantially
reworked the lyrics, a traditional blues activity shown
by the variation in Johnson's own consecutive takes.
The "Going down to Rosedale" verse is actually lifted
from Johnson's musically related "Traveling Riverside
Blues" and Eric's riff also seems to be partly derived
from that song.

Robert Johnson's Take 2 lyrics transcription:

Cross Road Blues

By Robert Johnson (rec 27/11/1936, San Antonio,
Texas)

I went down to the crossroad, fell down on my knees
I went down to the crossroad, fell down on my knees
Asked the Lord above "Have mercy, save poor Bob, if
you please."

Mmmmm, standin' at the crossroad, I tried to flag a
ride
Standin' at the crossroad, I tried to flag a ride
Didn't nobody seem to know me, everybody pass me
by

Mmm, the sun goin' down, boy, dark gon' catch me
here
Oooo, oooo, eee boy, dark gon' catch me here
I haven't got no lovin' sweet woman that love and feel
my care

You can run, you can run, tell my friend-boy, Willie
Brown.
You can run, tell my friend-boy, Willie Brown.
Lord, that I'm standin' at the crossroad, babe, I believe
I'm sinking down.

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