

Joni Mitchell

"Lakota"

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I am Lakota
Lakota, looking at money man
Diggin' the deadly quotas
Out of balance, out of hand

We want the land
Lay down the reeking ore
Don't you hear the shrieking in the trees?
Everywhere you touch the earth she's sore
Every time you skin her all things weep

Your money mocks us
Restitution what good can it do?
Kenneled in metered boxes
Red dogs in debt to you

I am Lakota
Lakota, fighting among ourselves
All we can say with one whole heart
Is we won't sell, no we'll never sell

We want the land
The lonely coyote calls
In the woodlands footprints of the deer
In the barrooms poor drunk bastard falls
In the courtrooms deaf ears sixty years

You think we're sleeping but
Quietly like rattlesnakes and stars
We have seen the trampled rainbows
In the smoke of cars

I am Lakota
Brave
Sun pity me
I am Lakota
Broken
Moon pity me
I am Lakota
Grave
Shadows stretching
Lakota

Oh, pity me

I am Lakota
Weak
Grass pity me
I am Lakota
Faithful
Rocks pity me
I am Lakota
Meek
Standing water
Lakota
Oh, pity me

I am Lakota
Lakota, standing on sacred land
We never sold these black hills
To the missile-heads, to the power plants

We want the land
The bullet and the fence broke Lakota
The black coats and the booze broke Lakota
Courts that circumvent choke Lakota
Nothing left to lose

Tell me grandfather
You spoke the fur and feather tongues
Do you hear the whimpering waters
When the tractors come?

I am Lakota
Brave
Sun pity me
I am Lakota
Broken
Moon pity me
I am Lakota
Grave
Shadows stretching
Lakota
Oh, pity me

I am Lakota
Weak
Grass pity me
I am Lakota
Faithful
Rocks pity me
I am Lakota
Meek
Standing water

Lakota
Oh, pity me

Sun pity me
Mother Earth
Mother
Moon pity me
Father sky
Father
Shadows
Stretching on the forest floor
Mother Earth
Oh, pity me

Father sky
Father
Grass pity me
Mother Earth
Mother
Rocks pity me
Father sky
Father
Water
Standing in a waken manner
Mother Earth
Oh, pity me

Father sky
Father
Sun pity me
Mother Earth
Mother
Moon pity me
Father sky
Father
Shadows
Stretching on the forest floor
Mother Earth
Oh, pity me

Father sky
Father
Grass pity me
Mother Earth
Mother
Rocks pity me
Father sky
Father

