

## Levon Helm "The Girl I Left Behind"

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The hours sad I left a maid  
A lingering farewell taking  
Whose sighs and tears my steps delayed  
I thought her heart was breaking  
In hurried words her name I blest  
I breathed the vows that bind me  
And to my heart in anguish pressed  
The girl I left behind me

Then to the east we bore away  
To win a name in story  
And there where dawns the sun of day  
There dawned our sun of glory  
The place in my sight  
When in the host assigned me  
I shared the glory of that fight  
Sweet girl I left behind me

Though many a name our banner bore  
Of former deeds of daring  
But they were of the day of yore  
In which we had no sharing  
But now our laurels freshly won  
With the old one shall entwine me  
Singing worthy of our size each son  
Sweet girl I left behind me

The hope of final victory  
Within my bosom burning  
Is mingling with sweet thoughts of thee  
And of my fond returning  
But should I n'eer return again  
Still with thy love I'll bind me  
Dishonors breath shall never stain  
The name I leave behind me

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