

The Grateful Dead

"Mama Tried"

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The first I remember knowin' was that lonesome whistle
blowin'
And a youngin's dream of growin' up to ride.
On a freight train leavin' town, not knowin' where I was
bound
No one could steer me right, but mama tried.

Was the only rebel child from a family meek and mild
Mama seemed to know what lay in store
In spite of all my Sunday learnin'
For the bad I kept on turnin' and mama couldn't hold
me anymore.

And I turned 21 in prison, doin' life without parole
No one could steer me right, but mama tried, mama
tried
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleadin' I denied
That leaves no one but me to blame cause mama tried.

Dear old daddy rest his soul, left my mom a heavy load
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes
Workin' hours without rest, wanted me to have the best
Oh she tried to raise me right, but I refused.

And I turned 21 in prison, doin' life without parole
No one could steer me right, but mama tried, mama
tried
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleadin' I denied
That leaves no one but me to blame cause mama tried.

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