

by Leonard Cohen
"Please Don't Pass Me by"

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I was walking in New York City and I brushed up against
the man in front of
me. I felt a cardboard placard on his back. And when
we passed a streetlight,
I could read it, it said "Please don't pass me by - I am
blind, but you can
see - I've been blinded totally - Please don't pass me
by." I was walking
along 7th Avenue, when I came to 14th Street I saw on
the corner curious
mutilations of the human form; it was a school for
handicapped people. And
there were cripples, and people in wheelchairs and
crutches and it was snowing,
and I got this sense that the whole city was singing this:

Oh please don't pass me by,
oh please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, but you can see,
yes, I've been blinded totally,
oh please don't pass me by.

And you know as I was walking I thought it was them
who were singing it, I
thought it was they who were singing it, I thought it was
the other who was
singing it, I thought it was someone else. But as I
moved along I knew it was
me, and that I was singing it to myself. It went:

Please don't pass me by,
oh please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, but you can see,
well, I've been blinded totally,
oh please don't pass me by.

Oh please don't pass me by.

Now I know that you're sitting there deep in your velvet
seats and you're
thinking "Uh, he's up there saying something that he

thinks about, but I'll
never have to sing that song." But I promise you
friends, that you're going
to be singing this song: it may not be tonight, it may
not be tomorrow, but
one day you'll be on your knees and I want you to know
the words when the
time comes. Because you're going to have to sing it to
yourself, or to another,
or to your brother. You're going to have to learn to sing
this song, it goes:

Please don't pass me by,
ah you don't have to sing this .. not for you.
Please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, but you can see,
yes, I've been blinded totally,
oh please don't pass me by.

Well I sing this for the Jews and the Gypsies and the
smoke that they made.
And I sing this for the children of England, their faces
so grave. And I sing
this for a saviour with no one to save. Hey, won't you be
naked for me? Hey,
won't you be naked for me? It goes:

Please don't pass me by,
oh please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, but you can see,
yes, I've been blinded totally,
oh now, please don't pass me by.

Now there's nothing that I tell you that will help you
connect the blood
tortured night with the day that comes next. But I want
it to hurt you, I
want it to end. Oh, won't you be naked for me? Oh now:

Please don't pass me by,
oh please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, but you can see,
but I've been blinded totally,
oh, please don't pass me by.

Well I sing this song for you Blonde Beasts, I sing this
song for you Venuses
upon your shells on the foam of the sea. And I sing this
for the freaks and
the cripples, and the hunchback, and the burned, and
the burning, and the

maimed, and the broken, and the torn, and all of those
that you talk about at
the coffee tables, at the meetings, and the
demonstrations, on the streets,
in your music, in my songs. I mean the real ones that
are burning, I mean the
real ones that are burning

I say, please don't pass me by,
oh now, please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, yeah but you can see,
ah now, I've been blinded totally,
oh no, please don't pass me by.

I know that you still think that its me. I know that you
think that there's
somebody else. I know that these words aren't yours.
But I tell you friends
that one day

You're going to get down on your knees,
you're going to get down ..

Oh, please don't pass me by,
oh, please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, yeah but you can see,
yes, I've been blinded totally,
oh, please don't pass me by.

Well you know I have my songs and I have my poems. I
have my book and I have
the army, and sometimes I have your applause. I make
some money, but you know
what my friends, I'm still out there on the corner. I'm
with the freaks, I'm
with the hunted, I'm with the maimed, yes I'm with the
torn, I'm with the down,
I'm with the poor. Come on now ...

Ah, please don't pass me by,
well I've got to go now friends,
but, please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, yeah but you can see,
oh, I've been blinded, I've been blinded totally,

oh now, please don't pass me by.

Now I want to take away my dignity, yes take my
dignity. My friends, take my
dignity, take my form, take my style, take my honour,
take my courage, take
my time, take my time, .. time .. 'Cause you know I'm
with you singing this
song. And I wish you would, I wish you would, I wish you
would go home with
someone else. Wish you'd go home with someone else.
I wish you'd go home with
someone else. Don't be the person that you came with.
Oh, don't be the person
that you came with, Oh don't be the person that you
came with. Ah, I'm not
going to be. I can't stand him. I can't stand who I am.
That's why I've got to
get down on my knees. Because I can't make it by
myself. I'm not by myself
anymore because the man I was before he was a
tyrant, he was a slave, he was
in chains, he was broken and then he sang:

Oh, please don't pass me by,
oh, please don't pass me by,
for I am blind, yes I am blind, Oh but you can see,
yes, I've been blinded totally,
oh, please don't pass me by.

Well I hope I see you out there on the corner. Yeah I
hope as I go by that I
hear you whisper with the breeze. Because I'm going to
leave you now, I'm
going to find me someone new. Find someone knew.

And please don't pass me by

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