

Ellis Paul, Lay Your Wager Down

You're my flesh and blood
But we're not the same
a common name
and now
a common distance

I looked up to you
in your plush armchair
respect or fear
I couldn't see the difference

Lay your wager down
Who'll be king in Tinsel Town?
'Cause all the prophets and the gypsies
on the strip in Venice Beach
Have looked me in the eye
and said, "Your dreams still lie in reach"
and who am I to doubt them
and who are you
to write these speeches?

Is it my poverty
That brings a blush to you?
Or the honesty
that speaks the mind
that comes with it

Were you once a man
with younger eyes
a hungry pride
that would not feel
resistance?

Lay your wager down
They're crowning the king in Tinsel Town
There are strangers, there are lovers
out on Fairfax in a line
They look me in the eye
and say "Our thoughts are intertwined"
and who am I to doubt them?
And who are you to tear down
these signs?