

# Gil Scott-Heron, We Beg Your Pardon (Pardon O

We'd like to do an idea for you that was related to the H&sub&2&/sub&gt;OGaTe, Watergate  
In March of 1973, we wrote the Watergate blues, and some 17 months later, then-President Nixon  
But the story didn't end there, so we didn't stop there  
We have prepared a sequel, and it's called, and it's called &quot;We Beg Your Pardon America&qu  
We beg your pardon because the pardon you gave this time, was not yours to give

They call it due process and some people are overdue  
We beg your pardon America  
Somebody said &quot;brother-man gonna break a window, gonna steal a hubcap, gonna smoke a  
The man who tried to steal America is not in jail  
&quot;Get caught with a nickel bag brother-man, get caught with a nickel bag&quot;, says the lady  
&quot;You'll do Big Ben, and Big Ben is time&quot;  
But the man who tried to fix America will not do time

Said they're going to slap his wrists, gonna retire him with 850 thousand dollars  
And America was &quot;shocked&quot;  
America leads the world in shocks  
Unfortunately, America does not lead the world in deciphering the cause of shock  
850 thousand dollars they said and the people protested and so they saw it like &quot;we'll give him  
Everybody said &quot;OK, that's better&quot;

I'd like to retire with 200 thousand dollars some day  
San Quentin not San Clemente  
Do not pass go, go directly to jail, do not collect 200 thousand dollars

We beg your pardon America  
We beg your pardon because somehow the pardon did not sit correctly  
What were - what were the causes for this pardon?  
Well now they had &quot;flea bite us&quot;  
Rats bite us, no pardon in the ghetto  
They had national security, but do you feel secure with the man who tried to steal America back on  
What are the results of this pardon though? Because remember, when there's causes, there's resu  
We now have Oatmeal Man

Anytime you find someone in the middle,  
Anytime you find someone who is tepid,  
Anytime you find someone who is lukewarm,  
Anytime you find someone who has been in Congress for 25 years and no one ever heard of him,  
You've got Oatmeal Man  
Oatmeal Man, straddling uncomfortably, yards and feet of barbed wire  
It's hard to live in the middle all the time

Oatmeal Man, the man who said you could fit all of his black friends in the trunk of his car and still f  
Oatmeal Man  
But there was no crime committed  
Oatmeal Man says that &quot;America, in 1975 your president will be a 1913 Ford&quot;  
Regressive  
Circle up the wagons to defend yourself from nuclear attack  
Oatmeal Man, reminiscent of 1964's AuH&sub&2&/sub&gt;O, Gold Water  
Thank god he didn't win, but Oatmeal man didn't win  
Did you vote for him? I didn't vote for him

But that's the first results, and the second would be the Dred Rockefeller  
Doubtlessly being promoted for the job he did at Attica, 43 dead and millions of Americans once ag  
Doubtlessly being promoted for the job he did on the streets of New York city where the pushers se  
They do life, and death or life, and death behind bars, while William Saxby(?) says he is going to di  
And brother Richard X of Buffalo New York faces 13 hundred and 65 years - did he say one thousa  
And Rockefeller faces being the Vice President of this country  
And all is calm and quiet along the white sands at San Clemente

We beg your pardon America, we beg your pardon once again  
Because we found out that seven out of every ten black men behind jail, and most of the men behin  
Seven out of every ten black men never went to the ninth grade  
Didn't have 50 dollars and hadn't had 100 for a month when they went to jail

So the poor and the ignorant go to jail while the rich go to San Clemente

We beg your pardon America because we understand now much more deeply than we understood  
But we don't want to take the pardon back, we want to issue some more  
Pardon brother Frank Willis, the Watergate security guard, he was only doing his job  
Pardon H. Rap Brown, it was only burglary  
Pardon Robert Vesco, it was only embezzlement  
Pardon Charles Manson, it was only mass murder  
And pardon us while we get sick  
Because they pardoned William Calley, 22 dead, and America in shock

And we understand all the more deeply, and we beg your pardon  
As unemployment spirals toward 7 percent, and it seems like 70 percent in my neighborhood  
As unemployment spirals and as we watch cattlemen on TV shoot cows in the head and kick 'em in  
We understand all the more deeply as Boston becomes Birmingham becomes Little Rock becomes  
We understand and we beg your pardon

We beg your pardon America because we have an understanding of karma  
What goes around, comes around  
And we beg your pardon for all of the lies and all of the people who've been ruined and who look for  
We beg your pardon America because the pardon you gave this time was not yours to give

Thank you very much. Thank you very much.