Leonard Cohen, By The Rivers Dark

By the rivers dark I wandered on. I lived my life in Babylon.

And I did forget My holy song: And I had no strength In Babylon.

By the rivers dark Where I could not see Who was waiting there Who was hunting me.

And he cut my lip And he cut my heart. So I could not drink From the river dark.

And he covered me, And I saw within, My lawless heart And my wedding ring,

I did not know And I could not see Who was waiting there, Who was hunting me.

By the rivers dark I panicked on. I belonged at last to Babylon.

Then he struck my heart With a deadly force, And he said, This heart: It is not yours.

And he gave the wind My wedding ring; And he circled us With everything.

By the rivers dark, In a wounded dawn, I live my life In Babylon.

Though I take my song From a withered limb, Both song and tree, They sing for him.

Be the truth unsaid And the blessing gone, If I forget My Babylon.

I did not know And I could not see Who was waiting there, Who was hunting me. By the rivers dark, Where it all goes on; By the rivers dark In Babylon.