

# Les Miserables, What Have I Done (Valjean's Soliloquy)

Valjean  
What have I done?  
Sweet Jesus, what have I done?  
Become a thief in the night  
Become a dog on the run  
And have I fallen so far  
And is the hour so late  
That nothing remains but the cry of my hate,  
The cries in the dark that nobody hears,  
Here where I stand at the turning of the years?  
If there's another way to go  
I missed it twenty long years ago  
My life was a war that could never be won  
They gave me a number and murdered Valjean  
When they chained me and left me for dead  
Just for stealing a mouthful of bread

Yet why did I allow that man  
To touch my soul and teach me love?  
He treated me like any other  
He gave me his trust  
He called me brother  
My life he claims for God above  
Can such things be?  
For I had come to hate this world

This world which had always hated me  
Take an eye for an eye!  
Turn your heart into stone!  
This is all I have lived for!  
This is all I have known!  
One word from him and I'd be back  
Beneath the lash, upon the rack  
Instead he offers me my freedom,  
I feel my shame inside me like a knife  
He told me that I have a soul,  
How does he know?  
What spirit came to move my life?  
Is there another way to go?  
I am reaching, but I fall  
And the night is closing in  
And I stare into the void  
To the whirlpool of my sin  
I'll escape now from the world  
From the world of Jean Valjean  
Jean Valjean is nothing now  
Another story must begin!

[He tears up his yellow ticket-of-leave.]