

# Murray McLauchlan, Shoeshine Workin' Song

A kid came up while I was  
Walkin' down the street today  
And asked if he could shine my shoes  
For two bits worth of pay  
I wasn't in no hurry  
And it wouldn't take too long  
But as he worked I heard him sing  
A strange and mornful song

Why does Daddy drink so much  
And come home sad and mean?  
Why does he just sit there  
Lookin' at the T.V. screen  
Why does he get sick and cry  
And blame it all on me?  
Why does Daddy drink so much  
And come home sad and mean?  
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I asked him where his Daddy was  
His thumb jerked past his ear  
He's over in the hotel  
Tryin' to drown himself in beer  
My Mom says he's my Daddy  
But he says that he don't know  
I don't know why he's like he is  
I try to love him though

Well I said, I'm no authority  
On bein' beaten down  
But sometimes this old world  
Can drive a man into the ground  
Can chain him to his paycheck  
If some boss will give him work  
Or put him in a welfare line  
And treat him like he's dirt

When the dreams they give a man are gone  
There's little left but hate  
Some men are blinded to the truth  
Until it's just too late  
Until he finds himself begging  
With his hand all around his hat  
Kid, you ask your Daddy  
If he knows a man like that

The kid looked at me funny  
And I gave him fifty cents  
And he knew as he took it  
That it was already spent  
I smiled as he picked up his box  
The kid, he said "So long"  
And as he left I heard him sing  
His shoeshine workin' song

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