

Avalanche; Leonard Cohen

(inversions: subdominant-1st, dominant-2nd; mediant⁰)

[V1]

6- / 4 /
I stepped into an avalanche,
6- 5 6- /
It covered up my soul.

6- / 4 /
When I am not this hunchback that you see,
6- 5 6- /
I sleep beneath a golden hill.

1 / 3⁷ /
You who wish to conquer pain,
6- / 4 / 3⁷ /
you must learn, learn to serve me well...

[V2]

6- 4
You strike my side by accident,
6- 5 6-
As you go down for your gold.

6- 4
The cripple here that you clothe and feed,
6- 5 6-
Is neither starved nor cold.

1 3⁷
He does not ask for your company,
6- 4 3⁷
Not at the centre, the centre of the world...

[V3]

6- 4
When I am on a pedestal,
6- 5 6-
You did not raise me there.

6- 4
Your laws do not compel me.
6- 5 6-
To kneel grotesque and bare.

1 3⁷
I myself am the pedestal,
6- 4 3⁷
For this ugly hump at which you stand...

[V4]

6- 4
You who wish to conquer pain,
6- 5 6-
You must learn what makes me kind.

6- 4
The crumbs of love that you offer me,
6- 5 6-
They're the crumbs I've left behind.

1 3⁷
Your pain is no credential here,
6- 4 3⁷
It's just a shadow, shadow of my wound...

[V5]

6- 4
I have begun to long for you,
6- 5 6-
I who have no greed.

6- 4
I have begun to ask for you,
6- 5 6-
I who have no need.

1 3⁷
You say you've gone away from me,
6- 4 3⁷
But I can feel you when you breathe...

[V6]

6- 4
Do not dress in those rags for me,
6- 5 6-
I know you are not poor.

6- 4
And don't love me quite so fiercely now,
6- 5 6-
When you know that you are not sure.

1 3⁷
It is your turn, beloved,
6- 4 3⁷
And it is your flesh that I wear...

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[V1]

Em / C /
I stepped into an avalanche,
Em D Em /
It covered up my soul.

Em / C /
When I am not this hunchback that you see,
Em D Em /
I sleep beneath a golden hill.

G / B⁷ /
You who wish to conquer pain,
Em / C / B⁷ /
you must learn, learn to serve me well...

[V2]

Em C
You strike my side by accident,
Em D Em
As you go down for your gold.

Em C
The cripple here that you clothe and feed,
Em D Em
Is neither starved nor cold.

G B⁷
He does not ask for your company,
Em C B⁷
Not at the centre, the centre of the world...

[V3]

Em C
When I am on a pedestal,
Em D Em
You did not raise me there.

Em C
Your laws do not compel me.
Em D Em
To kneel grotesque and bare.

G B⁷
I myself am the pedestal,
Em C B⁷
For this ugly hump at which you stand are...

[VC]

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Em D Em
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Am G Am /
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C / E⁷ /
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Am / F / E⁷ /
you must learn, learn to serve me well...

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Am F
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Am G Am
As you go down for your gold.

Am F
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He does not ask for your company,
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