

SIXTEEN TONS

#27

Music and Lyrics Merle Travis

Some people say a man is made outta mud
Poor man's made outta muscle and blood
Muscle and blood and skin and bones
A mind that's weak and a back that's strong

You load sixteen tons, what do you get
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go
I owe my soul to the company store

I was born one morning when the sun didn't shine
I picked up my shovel and walked to the mine
Loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal
And the straw boss said "Well, a-bless my soul"

You load sixteen tons, what do you get
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go
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I was born one morning, it was drizzling rain
Fighting and trouble are my middle name
I was raised in the canebrake by an old mama lion
Cain't no high-toned woman make me walk the line

You load sixteen tons, what do you get
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If you see me coming, better step aside
A lotta men didn't, a lotta men died

One fist of iron, the other of steel
If the right one don't get you, then the left one will

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