## WORDS FILL MY HEAD

# Rough And Rowdy Ways

[Source: lyrics as sung by Bob Dylan on the released album and transcribed by <u>Daniel Mackay</u>.]

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## **I Contain Multitudes**

Today and tomorrow and yesterday too
The flowers are dyin' like all things do
Follow me close, I'm going to Bally-na-lee
I'll lose my mind if you don't come with me
I fuss with my hair and I fight blood feuds
I contain multitudes

Got a tell-tale heart like Mr. Poe Got skeletons in the walls of people you know I'll drink to the truth and to things we said I'll drink to the man that shares your bed I paint landscapes and I paint nudes I contain multitudes

Red Cadillac and a black moustache

Rings on my fingers that sparkle and flash Tell me what's next, what shall we do? Half my soul, baby, belongs to you I rollick and I frolic with all the young dudes I contain multitudes

I'm just like Anne Frank, like Indiana Jones And them British bad boys, the Rolling Stones I go right to the edge, I go right to the end I go right where all things lost are made good again

I sing the songs of experience like William Blake I have no apologies to make Everything's flowing all at the same time I live on a boulevard of crime I drive fast cars and I eat fast foods I contain multitudes

Pink pedal pushers, red blue jeans
All the pretty maids and all the old queens
All the old creeds from all my past lives
I carry four pistols and two large knives
I'm a man of contradictions, I'm a man of many moods
I contain multitudes

You greedy old wolf, I'll show you my heart But not all of it, only the hateful part I'll sell ya down the river and put a price on your head What more can I tell ya? I sleep with life and death in the same bed

Get lost, madam, get up off my knee Keep your mouth away from me I'll keep the path open, the path in my mind I see to it that there's no love left behind I play Beethoven's sonatas, Chopin's preludes I contain multitudes

## **False Prophet**

Another day that don't end – another ship goin' out Another day of anger, bitterness, and doubt I know how it happened – I saw it begin I opened my heart to the world and the world came in

Hello Mary Lou – Hello Miss Pearl My fleet-footed guides from the underworld No stars in the sky shine brighter than you You girls mean business and I do too

Well, I'm the enemy of treason – a 'enemy of strife I'm the enemy of the unlived meaningless life I ain't no false prophet – I just know what I know I go where only the lonely can go

I'm first among equals – second to none
The last of the best – you can bury the rest
Bury 'em naked with their silver and gold
Put 'em six feet under and a-pray for their soul

What are you lookin' at – there's nothing to see Just a cool breeze that's encircling me Let's go for a walk in the garden – so far and so wide

We can sit in the shade by the fountain side

I searched the world over for the Holy Grail I sing songs of love – I sing songs of betrayal Don't care what I drink – I don't care what I eat I climbed a mountain of swords on my bare feet

You don't know me darlin' – ya never would guess I'm nothing like my ghostly appearance would suggest I ain't no False Prophet – I just said what I said I'm just here to bring vengeance on somebody's head

Put out your hand – there's nothin' to hold Open your mouth – I'll stuff it with gold Oh you poor Devil – look up if you will The City of God is there on the hill

Hello stranger – Hello and goodbye You rule the land, but so do I Ya lusty old mule – you got a poisoned brain I'll marry you to a ball and chain

You know darlin' the kind of life that I live When your smile meets my smile – a-somethings got to give I ain't no false prophet – no, I'm nobody's bride Can't remember when I was born and I forgot when I died

## My Own Version of You

All through the summers, into January
I've been visiting morgues and monasteries
Looking for the necessary body parts
Limbs and livers and brains and hearts
I'll bring someone to life, is what I wanna do
I'm gonna create my own version of you

Well, it must be the winter of my discontent I wish you'd a-taken me with you wherever you went They talk all night and they talk all day Not for a minute, do I believe anything they say I'm gonna bring someone to life, someone I've never seen You know what I mean, you know exactly what I mean

I'll take the Scarface Pacino & the Godfather Brando Mix it up in a tank and get a robot commando If I do it up right and put the head on straight

I'll be saved by the creature that I create

I'll get blood from a cactus, gunpowder from ice I don't gamble with cards and I don't shoot no dice Can you look in my face with your sightless eye? Can you cross your heart and hope to die? I'll bring someone to life, someone for real Someone who feels the way that I feel

I study Sanskrit and Arabic to improve my mind I wanna do things for the benefit of all mankind I say to the willow tree, "Don't weep for me" I'm saying the hell to all things that used to be

Well, I get into trouble, then I hit the wall
No place to turn, no place at all
I'll pick a number between a-one and two
And I ask myself, "What would Julius Caesar do?"
I'll bring someone to life in more ways than one
Don't matter how long it takes, it'll be done when it's done

I'm gonna make you play the piano like Leon Russell
Like Liberace, like St. John the Apostle
I'll play every number that I can play
I'll see you maybe on Judgment Day
After midnight, if you still wanna meet
I'll be at the Black Horse Tavern on Armageddon Street
Two doors down, not that far to walk
I'll hear your footsteps, you won't have to knock
I'll bring someone to life, balance the scales
I'm not gonna get involved in any insignificant details

You can bring it to St. Peter, you can bring it to Jerome You can bring it all the way over, bring it all the way home Bring it to the corner where the children play You can bring it to me on a silver tray I'll bring someone to life, spare no expense Do it with decency and common sense

Can you tell me what it means, to be or not to be? You won't get away with foolin' me
Can you help me walk that moonlight mile?
Can you give me the blessings of your smile?
I'll bring someone to life, use all of my powers
Do it in the dark in the wee small hours

I can see the history of the whole human race

It's all right there, it's carved into your face Should I break it all down? Should I fall on my knees? Is there light at the end of the tunnel, can you tell me please?

Stand over there by the cypress tree
Where the Trojan women and children were sold into slavery
Long before the First Crusade
Way back 'fore England or America were made

Step right into the burning hell Where some of the best-known enemies of mankind dwell Mr. Freud with his dreams, Mr. Marx with his axe See the rawhide lash rip the skin from their backs

Got the right spirit, you can feel it you can hear it You've got what they call the immortal spirit You can feel it all night, you can feel it in the morn It creeps in your body the day you were born

One strike of lightning is all that I need And a blast of 'lectricity that runs at top speed Show me your ribs, I'll stick in the knife Gonna jump-start my creation to life I wanna bring someone to life, turn back the years Do it with laughter and do it with tears

# I've Made Up My Mind to Give Myself to You

I'm sitting on my terrace, lost in the stars Listening to the sounds of the sad guitars. Been thinking it all over, and I thought it all through I've made up my mind to give myself to you

I saw the first fall of snow
I saw the flowers come and go
I don't think that anyone ever else ever knew
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

I'm giving myself to you, I am
From Salt Lake City to Birmingham
From East LA to San Antone
I don't think I could bear to live my life alone

My eye is like a shooting star

It looks at nothing here or there, looks at nothing near or far No one ever told me, it's just something I knew I've made up my mind to give myself to you

If I had the wings of a snow white dove I'd preach the gospel, the gospel of love A love so real, a love so true I've made up my mind to give myself to you

Take me out traveling, you're a traveling man Show me something that I'll understand I'm not what I was, things aren't what they were I'm going far away from home with her

I traveled the long road of despair
I've met no other traveler there
Lotta people gone, a lotta people I knew
I've made up my mind to give myself to you.

Well my heart's like a river, a river that sings Just takes me a while to realize things I'll see you at sunrise, I'll see you at dawn I'll lay down beside you when everyone's gone

I traveled from the mountains to the sea
I hope that the gods go easy with me
I knew you'd say yes, I'm saying it too
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

## **Black Rider**

Black rider, black rider, you been living too hard Been up all night, have to stay on your guard The path that you're walking – too narrow to walk Every step of the way, another stumbling block The road that you're on – same road that you know Just not the same as it was a minute ago

Black rider, black rider, you've seen it all You've seen the great world, and you've seen the small You fell into the fire, and you're eating the flame Better seal up your lips if you want to stay in the game Be reasonable mister, be honest, be fair Let all of your earthly thoughts be a prayer

Black rider, black rider, all dressed in black

I'm walking away, you try to make me look back My heart is at rest, I'd like to keep it that way I don't want to fight, at least not today Go home to your wife, stop visiting mine One of these days, I'll forget to be kind

Black rider, black rider, tell me when, tell me how
If there ever was a time, then let it be now
Let me go through, open the door
My soul is distressed, my mind is at war
Don't hug me, don't flatter me, don't turn on the charm
I take a sword and hack off your arm

Black rider, black rider, hold it right there
The size of your cock won't get you nowhere
I suffer in silence, I'll not make a sound
Maybe I'll take the high moral ground
Some enchanted evening, I'll sing you a song
Black rider, black rider, you've been on the job too long

## **Goodbye Jimmy Reed**

I live on a street named after a saint
Women in the churches wear powder and paint
Where the Jews and the Catholics and the Muslims all pray
I can tell the proddy from a mile away
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, Jimmy Reed indeed
Gimme that old time religion, it's just what I need

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the Glory Go tell it on the mountain, go tell the real story Tell in that straightforward puritanical tone In the mystic hours, where a person's alone Goodbye Jimmy Reed, Godspeed Thump on the Bible, proclaim a creed

You won't amount to much, the people all said 'Cos I didn't play guitar behind my head Never pandered, never acted proud Never took off my shoes, threw 'em into the crowd Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and good night Put a jewel in your crown and I'll put out the light

They threw everything at me, everything in the book

I had nothing to fight with but a butcher's hook They had no pity, they never lent a hand, I can't sing a song that I don't understand Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and good luck I can't play the record 'cos my needle got stuck

Transparent woman in a transparent dress
Suits you well I must confess
I break open your grapes, I suck out that juice
I need you like my head needs a noose
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and so long
I thought I could resist her, but I was so wrong

God be with you, brother dear
If you don't mind me asking, what brings you here?
Ah nothing much, I'm just looking for the man
Came to see where he's lying in this lost land
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, and everything within ya
Can't you hear me calling from down in Virginia?

## **Mother of Muses**

Mother of Muses sing for me Sing of the mountains and the deep dark sea Sing of the lakes and the nymphs of the forest Sing your hearts out, all ya women of the chorus Sing of honor and faith, and glory be Mother of Muses, sing for me

Mother of Muses, sing for my heart Sing of a love, too soon to depart Sing of the heroes who stood alone Whose names are engraved on tablets of stone Who struggled with pain so the world could go free Mother of Muses, sing for me

Sing of Sherman, Montgomery, and Scott,
And of Zhukov, and Patton, and the battles they fought Who cleared the path for Presley to sing, Who carved the path for Martin Luther King Who did what they dared and they went on their way Man, I could tell their stories all day

I'm falling in love with Calliope
She don't belong to anyone, why not give her to me?
She's speaking to me, speaking with her eyes
I've grown so tired of chasing lies
Mother of Muses, wherever you are
I've already outlived my life by far

Mother of Muses, unleash your wrath Things I can't see, they're blocking the path Show me your wisdom, tell me my fate Put me upright, make me walk straight Forge my identity from the inside out You know what I'm talking about

Take me to the river, release your charms
Let me lay down awhile in your sweet lovin' arms
Wake me, shake me, free me from sin
Make me invisible like the wind
Got a mind to ramble, got a mind to roam
I'm travelin' light, and I'm a-slow comin' home

## **Crossing the Rubicon**

I crossed the Rubicon on the 14th day of the most dangerous month of the year At the worst time, at the worst place – that's all I seem to hear I got up early so I could greet the Goddess of the Dawn I painted my wagon "abandon all hope," and I crossed the Rubicon

Well, the Rubicon is the Red River, going gently as she flows Redder then your ruby lips and the blood that flows from the rose Three miles north of Purgatory – one step from the great beyond I prayed to the cross, I kissed the girls, and I crossed the Rubicon

What are these dark days I see in this world so badly bent How can I redeem the time – the time so idly spent How much longer can it last – how long can it go on I embraced my love, put down my head, and I crossed the Rubicon

I can feel the bones beneath my skin, and they're tremblin' with rage I'll make your wife a widow – you'll never see old age Show me one good man in sight that the sun shines down upon I pawned my watch, I paid my debts, and I crossed the Rubicon

Put my heart upon the hill where some happiness there I'll find If I survive, then let me love – let the hour be mine Take the high road – take the low, take any one you're on I poured the cup, I passed it along, and I crossed the Rubicon

Well, you defiled the most lovely flower in all of womanhood Others can be tolerant – others can be good I'll cut ya up with a crooked knife, Lord and I'll miss ya when you're gone I stood between heaven and earth and I crossed the Rubicon

You won't find any happiness here – no happiness or joy Go back to the gutter, try your luck – find ya some nice pretty boy Tell me how many men I need, and who can I count upon I strapped my belt, I buttoned my coat, and I crossed the Rubicon

I feel the Holy Spirit inside, see the light that freedom gives I believe it's in the reach of every man who lives Keep as far away as possible – it's darkest 'fore the dawn (O Lord)

I turned the key and broke it off, and I crossed the Rubicon

Mona Baby, are you still in my mind – I truly believe that you are Couldn't be anybody else but you who's come with me this far The killing frost is on the ground and the autumn leaves are gone I lit the torch, I looked to the east, and I crossed the Rubicon

# **Key West (Philosopher Pirate)**

McKinley hollered, McKinley squalled Doctor said, "McKinley, death is on the wall. Say it to me if you've got something to confess" I heard all about it, he was goin' down slow I heard it on the wireless radio From down in the boondocks, way down in Key West

I'm searching for love, for inspiration
On that pirate radio station
Coming out of Luxembourg and Budapest
Radio signal clear as can be
I'm so deep in love that I can hardly see
Down on the flat lands, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to be
If you're looking for immortality
Stay on the road, follow the highway sign
Key West is fine and fair
If you lost your mind, you'll find it there
Key West is on the horizon line

I was born on the wrong side of the railroad track Like Ginsberg, Corso, and Kerouac Like Louis and Jimmie and Buddy and all the rest Well, it might not be the thing to do But I'm sticking with you through and through Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

I got both my feet planted square on the ground Got my right hand high with the thumb down Such is life, such is happiness

Hibiscus flowers, they grow everywhere here If you wear one, put it behind your ear Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to go
Down by the Gulf of Mexico
Beyond the sea, beyond the shifting sand
Key West is the gateway key
To innocence and purity
Key West, Key West is the enchanted land

I've never lived in the land of Oz
Or wasted my time with an unworthy cause
It's hot down here, and you can't be overdressed
Tiny blossoms of a toxic plant
They can make you dizzy, I'd like to help you but I can't
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

Well the fishtail ponds, and the orchid trees
They can give you that bleeding heart disease
People tell me I ought to try a little tenderness
On Newton Street, Bayview Park
Walking in the shadows after dark
Down under, way down in Key West

I played gumbo limbo spirituals
I know all the Hindu rituals
People tell me that I'm truly blessed
Bougainvillea blooming in the summer, in the spring
Winter here is an unknown thing
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

Key West is under the sun
Under the radar, under the gun
You stay to the left, and then you lean to the right
Feel the sunlight on your skin
And the healing virtues of the wind
Key West, Key West is the land of light

Wherever I travel, wherever I roam
I'm not that far from the convent home
I do what I think is right, what I think is best
History street off of Mallory Square
Truman had his White House there
East bound, west bound, way down in Key West

Twelve years old, they put me in a suit Forced me to marry a prostitute There were gold fringes on her wedding dress That's my story, but not where it ends She's still cute, and we're still friends Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

I play both sides against the middle
Trying to pick up that pirate radio signal
I heard the news, I heard your last request
Fly around my pretty little Miss
I don't love nobody, give me a kiss
Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to be
If you're looking for immortality
Key West is paradise divine
Key West is fine and fair
If you lost your mind, you'll find it there
Key West is on the horizon line

## **Murder Most Foul**

1.

'Twas a dark day in Dallas – November '63 The day that will live on in infamy President Kennedy was a-riding high Good day to be living and a good day to die Being led to the slaughter like a sacrificial lamb He said wait a minute boys, you know who I am? Of course we do, we know who you are Then they blew off his head while he was still in the car Shot down like a dog in broad daylight 'Twas a matter of timing and the timing was right You got unpaid debts – we've come to collect We're gonna kill you with hatred, without any respect We'll mock you and shock you, and we'll grin in your face We've already got someone here to take your place The day they blew out the brains of the king Thousands were watching, no one saw a thing It happened so quickly – so quick by surprise Right there in front of everyone's eyes

Greatest magic trick ever under the sun Perfectly executed, skillfully done Wolfman, oh wolfman, oh wolfman, howl Rub a dub dub – it's a murder most foul

2.

Hush little children, you'll understand The Beatles are coming they're gonna hold your hand Slide down the bannister, go get your coat Ferry 'cross the Mersey and go for the throat There's three bums comin' all dressed in rags Pick up the pieces and lower the flags I'm going to Woodstock, it's the Aquarian Age Then I'll go over to Altamont and sit near the stage Put your head out the window, let the good times roll There's a party going on behind the grassy knoll Stack up the bricks, pour the cement Don't say Dallas don't love you, Mr. President Put your foot in the tank and then step on the gas Try to make it to the triple underpass Black face singer – white face clown Better not show your faces after the sun goes down

I'm in the red-light district like a cop on the beat Living in a nightmare on Elm Street When you're down on deep Ellum put your money in your shoe Don't ask what your country can do for you Cash on the barrel head, money to burn Dealey Plaza, make a left hand turn I'm going down to the crossroads, gonna flag a ride The place where Faith, Hope and Charity died Shoot 'em while he runs, boy, shoot 'em while you can See if you can shoot the Invisible Man Goodbye, Charlie, goodbye Uncle Sam Frankly, Miss Scarlet, I don't give a damn What is the truth – where did it go Ask Oswald and Ruby – they oughta know Shut your mouth, say the wise old owl Business is business and it's murder most foul

## 3.

Tommy can you hear me, I'm the Acid Queen I'm ridin' in a long black Lincoln limousine Ridin' in the back seat, next to my wife Heading straight on into the afterlife I'm leaning to the left, got my head in her lap Oh Lord, I've been led into some kind of a trap Well, we ask no quarter, no quarter do we give We're right down the street from the street where you live They mutilated his body and they took out his brain What more could they do, they piled on the pain But his soul was not there where it was supposed to be at For the last fifty years they've been searching for that Freedom, oh freedom, freedom over me I hate to tell you, Mister, but only dead men are free Send me some loving – tell me no lie Throw the gun in the gutter and walk on by Wake Up, Little Suzie, let's go for a drive Cross the Trinity River, let's keep hope alive Turn the radio on, don't touch the dials Parkland Hospital only six more miles You got me Dizzy Miss Lizzy, you filled me with lead That magic bullet of yours has gone to my head I'm just a patsy like Patsy Cline Never shot anyone from in front or behind Got blood in my eye, got blood in my ear I'm never gonna make it to the New Frontier

Zapruder's film, I've seen that before
Seen it thirty-three times, maybe more
It's vile and deceitful – it's cruel and it's mean
Ugliest thing that you ever have seen
They killed him once, and they killed him twice
Killed him like a human sacrifice
The day that they killed him, someone said to me, "Son,
The age of the anti-Christ has just only begun."
Air Force One coming in through the gate
Johnson sworn in at two thirty-eight
Let me know when you decide to throw in the towel
It is what it is and it's murder most foul

#### 4.

What's New Pussycat – wha'd I say I said the soul of a nation been torn away And it's beginning to go into a slow decay And that it's thirty-six hours past Judgment Day Wolfman Jack, he's speaking in tongues He's going on and on at the top of his lungs Play me a song, Mr. Wolfman Jack Play it for me in my long Cadillac Play me that Only The Good Die Young Take me to the place Tom Dooley was hung Play St. James Infirmary in the court of King James If you want to remember, you better write down the names Play Etta James too, play I'd Rather Go Blind Play it for the man with the telepathic mind Play John Lee Hooker, play Scratch My Back Play it for that strip club owner named Jack Guitar Slim – Goin' Down Slow Play it for me and for Marilyn Monroe Play please, Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood Play it for the First Lady, she ain't feeling too good Play Don Henley – play Glenn Frey Take it to the Limit and lettin' it go by Play it for Carl Wilson, too Lookin' far, far away down Gower Avenue Play Tragedy, play Twilight Time Take Me Back to Tulsa to the scene of the crime Play another one and Another One Bites the Dust Play the Old Rugged Cross and in G-d We Trust Ride the Pink Horse down that Long, Lonesome Road Stand there and wait for his head to explode Play Mystery Train for Mr. Mystery The man who fell down dead like a rootless tree

Play it for the Reverend, play it for the Pastor

Play it for the dog that got no master

Play Oscar Peterson, play Stan Getz

Play Blue Sky, play Dickie Betts

Play Art Pepper, Thelonious Monk

Charlie Parker and all that junk

All that junk and All That Jazz

Play something for The Birdman of Alcatraz

Play Buster Keaton play Harold Lloyd

Play Bugsy Siegel play Pretty Boy Floyd

Play the numbers, play the odds

Play Cry Me A River for the Lord of the Gods

Play number nine, play number six

Play it for Lindsey and Stevie Nicks

Play Nat King Cole, play Nature Boy

Play Down in the Boondocks for Terry Malloy

Play It Happened One Night and One Night of Sin

There's twelve million souls that are listening in

Play Merchant of Venice, play merchants of death

Play Stella by Starlight for Lady Macbeth

Don't worry, Mr. President, help's on the way

Your brothers are comin', there'll be hell to pay

Brothers? What brothers? What's this about hell?

Tell 'em we're waitin' – keep coming – we'll get them as well

Love Field is where his plane touched down

But it never did get back up off the ground

Was a hard act to follow, second to none

They killed him on the altar of the Rising Sun

Play Misty for me and that Old Devil Moon

Play Anything Goes and Memphis in June

Play Lonely at the Top and Lonely Are the Brave

Play it for Houdini spinning around in his grave

Play Jelly Roll Morton, play Lucille

Play Deep in a Dream and play Drivin' Wheel

Play Moonlight Sonata in F sharp

And a Key to the Highway by the king of the harp

Play Marchin' Through Georgia and Dumbarton's Drums

Play Darkness and death will come when it comes

Play Love Me or Leave Me by the great Bud Powell

Play the Blood Stained Banner – play Murder Most Foul