

# By the Rivers Dark

Leonard Cohen

By the river's dark, I wandered on  
I lived my life in Babylon And I did forget my holy song  
And I had no strength in Babylon By the river's dark, where I could not see  
Who was waiting there, who was hunting me? And he cut my lip and he cut my heart  
So I could not drink from the river dark And he covered me and I saw within  
My lawless heart and my wedding ring I did not know and I could not see  
Who was waiting there, who was hunting me? By the river's dark, I panicked on  
I belonged at last to Babylon Then he struck my heart with a deadly force  
And he said, "This heart, it is not yours" And he gave the wind, my wedding ring  
And he circled us with everything By the river's dark in a wounded dawn  
I live my life in Babylon Though I take my song from a withered limb  
Both song and tree they sing for him Be the truth unsaid and the blessing gone  
If I forget my Babylon I did not know and I could not see  
Who was waiting there, who was hunting me? By the river's dark where it all goes on  
By the river's dark in Babylon

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