

# Growing Trade

Levon Helm

I worked the land to raise a family  
Til I was weary to the bone  
But hard labor never bothered me  
Lord it's all I've ever known  
Too many seasons of calamity  
And too much interest on the loan  
I'm half the size that I used to be  
And half of that is stone  
The crops ain't worth the seeding  
10 will only get you 5  
The livestock I'ma feedin'  
I can hardly keep 'em alive  
I gotta do what I can to survive  
I know the law won't be forgiving  
But that'll be the choice I made  
I used to farm for a living  
And now I'm in the growing trade  
The summer beauty of the cotton field  
Was like a view from Heaven's door  
My granddaddy said that harvest time  
Was what the good Lord made us for  
I guess he'd wonder where's the dignity  
In a crop you raise to burn

But this land is my legacy  
I got nowhere else to turn  
Shotgun on my shoulder  
Where a tote sack oughta be  
The thieves are getting bolder  
And the feds may be watchin' me  
I gotta quit this eventually  
I know the law won't be forgiving  
But that'll be the choice I made  
I used to farm for a living  
But now I'm in the growing trade  
Helicopters in the distance  
Coming closer everyday  
They're gonna meet some resistance  
Aint no price I wouldn't pay

There won't be any difference  
When they take it all away  
Between a cot in the jail house  
And a bed beneath the clay  
I guess there's nothing to do now but pray  
I know the law won't be forgiving  
But that'll be the choice I made  
I used to farm for a living  
And now I'm in the growing trade

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