

# The Mercy Seat

## Johnny Cash

It all began when  
They took me from my home  
And put me on death row  
A crime for which I am totally innocent, you know I began to warm and chill  
To objects and their fields  
A ragged cup, a twisted mop  
The face of Jesus in my soup Those sinister dinner deals  
The meal trolley's wicked wheels  
A hooked bone rising from my food  
And all things either good or un-good And the mercy seat is waitin'  
And I think my head is burnin'  
And in a way I'm yearning  
To be done with all this weighing of the truth  
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth  
And anyway I told the truth and I'm not afraid to die I hear stories from the chamber  
Christ was born into a manger  
And like some ragged stranger  
He died upon the cross Might I say, it seems  
So fitting in its way  
He was a carpenter by trade  
Or at least that's what I'm told My kill-hand's tattooed 'E.V.I.L.'  
Across it's brother's fist  
That filthy five, they did nothing  
To challenge or resist In Heaven, His throne is made of gold  
The ark of His Testament is stowed  
A throne from which I'm told  
All history does unfold It's made of wood and wire  
And my body is on fire  
And God is never far away Into the mercy seat I climb  
My head is shaved, my head is wired  
And like a moth that tries to enter the bright eye  
I go shuffling out of life  
Just to hide in death awhile  
And anyway I never lied And the mercy seat is waitin'  
And I think my head is burnin'  
And in a way I'm yearning  
To be done with all this weighing of the truth  
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth and anyway  
I told the truth and I'm not afraid to die And the mercy seat is burnin'

And I think my head is glowin'  
And in a way I'm hoping  
To be done with all this twisting of the truth  
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth  
And anyway there was no proof and I'm not afraid to die And the mercy seat is glowin'  
And I think my head is smokin'  
And in a way I'm hoping to be done  
With all these looks of disbelief  
A life for a life and a truth for a truth  
And I've got nothing left to lose  
And I'm not afraid to die And the mercy seat is smokin'  
And I think my head is meltin'  
And in a way that's helping  
To be done with all this twisting of the truth  
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth  
And anyway I told the truth but I'm afraid I told a lie

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