

# Oedipus

## Patricia Barber

I'm the king's thirty second son  
Born to him in thirty seconds time  
Born to him the night still young  
Born to him with two eyebrows on  
And that's all I was wearing  
When I woke up staring at the world  
My mom had been around the graves of queens  
But not at all a sex machine  
She liked to keep her body clean, clean  
Thought the world to be quite obscene  
But she retired to her chamber  
And we remain quite strangers  
And to see me made her awful sad  
And to touch me made her awful sad  
And to see me made her awful  
And to touch me made her awful  
I'm the king's thirty second son  
And all it took was thirty seconds time  
But a spoiled little prince I was not  
Had a chamber maid and a chamber pot  
And there's thirty-one others just like me  
There's thirty-one others I can be  
Sometimes I'd stand by the royal wall  
The sky'd be so big that it broke my soul  
And I stood on my toes to catch a glimpse  
Of my mother's eyes and my mother's skin  
And she retired to her chamber  
And we remain quite strangers  
And to see me made her awful sad  
And to touch me made her awful sad  
And to see me made her awful  
And to touch me made her awful  
And one morning I woke up  
And I thought Oedipus, Oedipus, Oedipus, Oedipus  
Then one morning I woke up and I thought Rex, Rex, Rex  
Then one morning I woke up  
And I thought Oedipus, Oedipus, Oedipus, Oedipus  
Thirty-two's still a goddamn number  
Thirty-two's still counts, gonna make it count

Gonna make it count, gonna oh oh  
Thirty-two's still a goddamn number  
Thirty-two still counts, gonna make it count  
    Gonna make it count gonna oh oh  
    Long live the king, long live the king  
    Long live the king, long live the king  
    Long live the king, long live the king  
    Long live the king, long live the  
    I'm the king's thirty second son  
    There's thirty-one others just like me  
    There's thirty-one others on the way  
    There's thirty-one others after that  
    Sometimes I stand by the royal gate  
        People screaming love and hate  
        And they scream and they scream  
        And they scream and they scream  
    Long live the king, long live the queen  
        And to see me made her awful sad  
        And to touch me made her awful sad  
        And to see me made her awful  
        And to touch me made her awful  
        And one morning I woke up  
    And I thought Oedipus, Oedipus, Oedipus, Oedipus  
Then one morning I woke up and I thought Rex, Rex, Rex  
    Then one morning I woke up  
    And I thought Oedipus, Oedipus, Oedipus, Oedipus  
        Thirty-two's still a goddamn number  
    Thirty-two's still counts, gonna make it count  
        Gonna make it count, gonna oh oh  
        Thirty-two's still a goddamn number  
        Thirty-two's still a goddamn number  
        Thirty-two's still a goddamn number  
        Thirty-two's still a goddamn number  
    Thirty-two, thirty-two, thirty-two, thirty-two  
        Thirty-two, thirty-two, thirty-two  
            Long live the king  
            Long live the king  
            Long live the king

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