

# What Does It Mean to Travel

## Mary Chapin Carpenter

From departure to arrival  
what does it mean to travel  
With your suitcase by the handle  
holding everything you need Are you going or are you coming  
walking slow or running  
Toward somebody or from something  
trade your longing in for speed and the freedom to be a stranger  
is a bargain that's ours alone  
sometimes you just want to be someone else  
unencumbered and unknown From departure to arrival  
what does it mean to travel  
And from taking off to landing  
you could feel your heart expanding  
You walked halfway down Manhattan  
till you met the Brooklyn Bridge and in a 2 AM transmission  
from a high wire act position  
how the skyline behind you glistened  
as if someone pulled a switch and I don't want to be a stranger  
and I don't want to be alone  
but sometimes I just want to be somewhere else  
untethered and unknown  
when I am far from home From departure to arrival  
what does it mean to travel

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