

# Baltimore

## The Hackensaw Boys

I know I've seen this place before  
Lord can't you hear me screaming  
As a young man long ago  
When I was twenty-one  
And I know I've seen this house before  
With people all around it  
With my baby cousin on the floor  
And mama in the kitchen  
And a woman lies upon the bed  
I think she must be dying  
And I recall the words she said  
As she began to cry  
She begged son please don't go to baltimore  
And leave me where I'm lying  
For you will son but I no more  
Walk among the living  
And if you go to baltimore  
Then I'll see you in heaven  
And as you breathe I'll breathe no more  
And I will surely die  
Well you know I went to baltimore  
So confident and wise  
And as I breathed she breathed no more  
And she did surely die  
And now as I lie upon my bed  
I pray I must be dreaming

With faces all around my head  
And strangers at my door  
And a woman's voice calls out to me  
Bring unto you your children  
And let them see these things you see  
And hear the words you say  
Beg them to go to baltimore  
And leave you where you're lying  
Just like you did one time before  
When you were twenty-one  
And if they go to baltimore  
Then I'll see you in heaven

And as they breathe you'll breathe no more  
And you will surely die  
And I know I've seen this place before  
Lord can't you hear me screaming  
And if I should awaken lord  
Then answer me my plea  
What makes the sun set in the west  
And birds fly in the sky  
And what makes a woman beat her breast  
When her children start to cry  
And what makes those little ones grow old  
To find eternity  
And what takes the wise  
And leaves behind  
A foolish one like me

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