

The Cool, Cool River

Paul Simon

Moves like a fist through the traffic
Anger and no one can heal it
Shoves a little bump into the momentum
It's just a little lump but you feel it, in theIn the creases and the shadows
With a rattling deep emotion
The cool, cool river
Sweeps the wild, white oceanYes Boss, the government handshake
Yes Boss, the crusher of language
Yes Boss, Mr. Stillwater
The face at the edge of the banquetThe cool, the cool river
The cool, the cool riverI believe in the future
I may live in my car
My radio tuned to
The voice of a starSong dogs barking at the break of dawn
Lightning pushes the edge of a thunderstorm
And these old hopes and fears
Still at my sideAnger and no one can heal it
Slides through the metal detector
Lives like a mole in a motel
A slide in a slide projectorThe cool, cool river
Sweeps the wild, white ocean
The rage, the rage of love turns inward
To prayers of devotionThese prayers are the constant road across the wilderness
These prayers are
These prayers are the memory of God
The memory of GodI believe in the future
We shall suffer no more
Maybe not in my lifetime
But in yours I feel sureSong dogs barking at the break of dawn
Lightning pushes the edges of a thunderstorm
And these streets, quiet as a sleeping army
Send their battered dreams to HeavenTo Heaven
For the mother's restless son
Who is a witness to, who is a warrior
Who denies his urge to break and runWho says, "Hard times? I'm used to them
The speeding planet burns, I'm used to that
My life's so common it disappears
And sometimes even music cannot substitute for tears

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