

The Reverend Mr. Black

Johnny Cash

He rode easy in the saddle
He was tall and lean and at first you'd a thought nothing
But a streak of mean could make a man look so down right strong
But one look in his eyes and you knowed you was wrong
He was a mountain of a man
And I want you to know
He could preach hot hell or freezin' snow
He carried a Bible in a canvas sack
And folks just called him
The Reverend Mr. Black, he was poor as a beggar
But he rode like a king
Sometimes in the evening, I'd hear him sing
I gotta walk that lonesome valley, I got to walk it by myself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I got to walk it by myself
You got to walk that lonesome valley, you got to walk it by yourself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for you, you got to walk it by yourself
If ever I could have thought this man in black
was soft
And had any yellow up his back
I gave that notion up the day a lumberjack came in
And it wasn't to pray
Yeah, he kicked open the meeting house door
And he cussed everybody up and down the floor
Then, when things got quiet in the place
He walked up and cusses in the preacher's face
He hit that Reverend like a kick of a mule
And to my way of thinkin' it took a real fool
To turn the other face to that lumber jack
But that's what he did, The Reverend Mr. Black
He stood like a rock, a man among men
And he let that lumberjack hit him again
And then with a voice as quiet as could be
He cut him down like a big oak tree when he said
I gotta walk that lonesome valley, I got to walk it by myself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I got to walk it by myself
You got to walk that lonesome valley, you got to walk it by yourself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for you, you got to walk it by yourself
It's been many years since we had to part
And I guess I learned his ways by heart
I can still hear his sermon's ring
Down in the valley where he used to sing
I followed him, yes, sir and I don't regret it
And I hope I will always be a credit to his memory
'Cause I want you to understand
The Reverend Mr. Black was my old man
I gotta walk that lonesome valley, I got to walk it by myself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I got to walk it by myself
You got to walk that lonesome valley, you got to walk it by yourself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for you, you got to walk it by yourself

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