

Take This Longing

Leonard Cohen

Many men have loved the bells you fastened to the rein
And everyone who wanted you
They found what they will always want again
Your beauty lost to you yourself just as it was lost to them Oh take this longing from my tongue
Whatever useless things these hands have done
Let me see your beauty broken down
Like you would do for one you love Your body like a searchlight my poverty revealed
I would like to try your charity
Until you cry, now you must try my greed
And everything depends upon how near you sleep to me Just take this longing from my tongue
All the lonely things my hands have done
Let me see your beauty broken down
Like you would do for one your love Hungry as an archway through which the troops have passed
I stand in ruins behind you
With your winter clothes, your broken sandal straps
I love to see you naked over there especially from the back Oh take this longing from my tongue
All the useless things my hands have done
Untie for me your hired blue gown
Like you would do for one that you love You're faithful to the better man, I'm afraid that he left
So let me judge your love affair in this very room
Where I have sentenced mine to death
I'll even wear these old laurel leaves that he's shaken from his head Just take this longing from my tongue
All the useless things my hands have done
Let me see your beauty broken down
Like you would do for one you love Like you would do for one you love

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