

# To A Teacher

## Leonard Cohen

[Dedicated to A. M. Klein (1909-1972)]Hurt once and for all into silence.

A long pain ending without a song to prove it.  
Who could stand beside you so close to Eden,  
When you glinted in every eye the held-high  
    razor, shivering every ram and son?  
And now the silent loony bin, where  
    The shadows live in the rafters like  
        Day-weary bats,  
Until the turning mind, a radar signal,  
    lures them to exaggerate

Mountain-size on the white stone wall  
    Your tiny limp.  
How can I leave you in such a house?  
Are there no more saints and wizards  
    to praise their ways with pupils,  
    No more evil to stun with the slap  
        of a wet red tongue?  
Did you confuse the Messiah in a mirror  
    and rest because he had finally come?  
Let me cry Help beside you, Teacher.  
    I have entered under this dark roof  
    As fearlessly as an honoured son  
        Enters his father's house.

Lyrics provided by  
<https://damnlrics.com/>