

# Why I Sing The Blues

B.B. King

Everybody wants to know  
Why I sing the blues  
Yes, I say everybody wanna know  
Why I sing the blues  
Well, I've been around a long time  
I really have paid my dues

When I first got the blues  
They brought me over on a ship  
Men were standing over me  
And a lot more with a whip  
And everybody wanna know  
Why I sing the blues  
Well, I've been around a long time  
Mm, I've really paid my dues

I've laid in a ghetto flat  
Cold and numb  
I heard the rats tell the bedbugs  
To give the roaches some  
Everybody wanna know  
Why I'm singing the blues  
Yes, I've been around a long time  
People, I've paid my dues

I stood in line  
Down at the County Hall  
I heard a man say, "We're gonna build  
Some new apartments for y'all"  
And everybody wanna know  
Yes, they wanna know  
Why I'm singing the blues  
Yes, I've been around a long, long time  
Yes, I've really, really paid my dues

Now I'm gonna play Lucille.

My kid's gonna grow up  
Gonna grow up to be a fool  
'Cause they ain't got no more room  
No more room for him in school  
And everybody wanna know  
Everybody wanna know  
Why I'm singing the blues  
I say I've been around a long time  
Yes, I've really paid some dues

Yeah, you know the company told me  
Guess you're born to lose  
Everybody around me, people  
It seems like everybody got the blues  
But I had 'em a long time  
I've really, really paid my dues  
You know I ain't ashamed of it, people  
I just love to sing my blues

I walk through the cities, people

On my bare feet  
I had a fill of catfish and chitterlings  
Up and down Beal Street  
You know I'm singing the blues  
Yes, I really  
I just have to sing my blues  
I've been around a long time  
People, I've really, really paid my dues

Now Father Time is catching up with me  
Gone is my youth  
I look in the mirror everyday  
And let it tell me the truth  
I'm singing the blues  
Mm, I just have to sing the blues  
I've been around a long time  
Yes, yes, I've really paid some dues

Yeah, they told me everything  
Would be better out in the country  
Everything was fine  
I caught me a bus uptown, baby  
And every people, all the people  
Got the same trouble as mine  
I got the blues, huh huh  
I say I've been around a long time  
I've really paid some dues

One more time, fellows!

Blind man on the corner  
Begging for a dime  
The rollers come and caught him  
And throw him in the jail for a crime  
I got the blues  
Mm, I'm singing my blues  
I've been around a long time  
Mm, I've really paid some dues

Can we do just one more?

Oh I thought I'd go down to the welfare  
To get myself some grits and stuff  
But a lady stand up and she said  
"You haven't been around long enough"  
That's why I got the blues  
Mm, the blues  
I say, I've been around a long time  
I've really, really paid my dues

Fellows, tell them one more time.

Ha, ha, ha. That's all right, fellows.  
Yeah!