

# You Bowed Down

Elvis Costello

I expect you're entitled to know why I'm making contact  
With acquaintances scattered all over the land  
I'd promise you now and again that I'd honour the contract  
If it hadn't crumbled away in my hand  
So we broke that vow independently now  
But I don't know why you absolutely deny  
You bowed down (you bowed down, you bowed down)  
You bowed down (you bowed down, you bowed down)

When you first looked away I might say it was really a kindness  
It must have hurt you to see how dreams sour  
Now they say that justice and love are the next things to blind  
ness  
Well you're getting plenty of both of them now  
And so you parade where appointments are made  
And never meant to be kept  
Unless you accept

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You value the burnt amber of falling leaves  
And you long to delay  
As you feel their breath as they whisper  
"It won't hurt you now to betray  
If you just bow down"

And now every time that we meet on the edge of hysteria  
You're helping them sell off some new party line  
I remember a time when you would have seemed so superior  
Now you say "Will you please meet this good friend of mine?"  
So you're in demand as long as you kiss their hand  
But all the applause is for their name not yours

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