

## Flash Cards

Kelly Joe Phelps

Bouncin' across the lake of ten years  
Like a stone tossed from the burglar's hand  
Holdin' my breath, then I'm sinkin'  
Waves in circle like a memory slowly fade away, slowly fade

Remember me, when you look across the lake  
When a fish caught hard on the line  
Fights for his own life  
When a boat breaks free of the tether and floats away in the wind

The throw was aimed at a distant pine  
Winnin' the war by landin' down on the other side  
So, another playin' boy might find it there  
Skip it back not knowin' his part  
In this messed up game, in this messed up game

Juggled in the hands of ten long years  
Like colorful wands of fire in the arms of a red-eyed wino  
Life held tight in purple lips and tongue  
That mumble and spit out curses

And the young boy's line was 'I'll show you'  
And the twenties was 'Watch me burn this fire'  
And the thirties was 'Jesus, God, where did I go wrong?'  
The forties was 'Good Lord, how much more?'

I'm halfway into the end of the chapter  
And no ink left in the well  
And no happy ending to tell, though  
Bandages cover my body

Have no desire to swing the bell  
No, I got no desire now to swing the bell  
No, I got no desire now to swing the bell  
No, I got no, no, no desire to swing the bell

To swing the bell  
To swing the bell  
To swing the bell, bell, bell  
Desire, no desire  
No desire to swing