

## Please Don't Pass Me By (A Disgrace)

Leonard Cohen

I was walking in New York City and I brushed up against the man in front of me. I felt a cardboard placard on his back. And when we passed a streetlight, I could read it, it said "Please don't pass me by - I am blind, but you can see - I've been blinded totally - Please don't pass me by." I was walking a long 7th Avenue, when I came to 14th Street I saw on the corner curious mutilations of the human form; it was a school for handicapped people. And there were cripples, and people in wheelchairs and crutches and it was snowing, and I got this sense that the whole city was singing this:

Oh please don't pass me by,  
Oh please don't pass me by,  
For I am blind, but you can see,  
Yes, I've been blinded totally,  
Oh please don't pass me by.

And you know as I was walking I thought it was them who were singing it, I thought it was they who were singing it, I thought it was the other who was singing it, I thought it was someone else. But as I moved along I knew it was me, and that I was singing it to myself. It went:

Please don't pass me by,  
Oh please don't pass me by,  
For I am blind, but you can see,  
Well, I've been blinded totally,  
Oh please don't pass me by.  
Oh please don't pass me by.

Now I know that you're sitting there deep in your velvet seats and you're thinking "Uh, he's up there saying something that he thinks about, but I'll never have to sing that song." But I promise you friends, that you're going to be singing this song: it may not be tonight, it may not be tomorrow, but one day you'll be on your knees and I want you to know the words when the time comes. Because you're going to have to sing it to yourself, or to another, or to your brother. You're going to have to learn to sing this song, it goes:

Please don't pass me by,  
Ah you don't have to sing this .. not for you.  
Please don't pass me by,  
For I am blind, but you can see,  
Yes, I've been blinded totally,  
Oh please don't pass me by.

Well I sing this for the Jews and the Gypsies and the smoke that they made. And I sing this for the children of England, their faces so grave. And I sing this for a saviour with no one to save. Hey, won't you be naked for me? Hey, won't you be naked for me? It goes:

Please don't pass me by,  
Oh please don't pass me by,  
For I am blind, but you can see,  
Yes, I've been blinded totally,  
Oh now, please don't pass me by.

Now there's nothing that I tell you that will help you connect the blood tortured night with the day that comes next. But I want it to hurt you, I want it to end. Oh, won't you be naked for me? Oh now:



yself anymore because the man I was before he was a tyrant, he was a slave,  
he was in chains, he was broken and then he sang:

Oh, please don't pass me by,  
Oh, please don't pass me by,  
For I am blind, yes I am blind, Oh but you can see,  
Yes, I've been blinded totally,  
Oh, please don't pass me by.

Well I hope I see you out there on the corner. Yeah I hope as I go by that I  
hear you whisper with the breeze. Because I'm going to leave you now, I'm g  
oing to find me someone new. Find someone knew.

And please don't pass me by.