

## Branded Man

Merle Haggard

I'd like to hold my head up and be proud of who I am  
But they won't let my secret go untold  
I paid the debt I owed them, but they're still not satisfied  
Now I'm a branded man out in the cold

When they let me out of prison, I held my head up high  
Determined I would rise above the shame  
But no matter where I'm living, the black mark follows me  
I'm branded with a number on my name

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If I live to be a hundred, I guess I'll never clear my name  
'Cause everybody knows I've been in jail  
No matter where I'm living, I've got to tell them where I've been  
Or they'll send me back to prison if I fail

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