

# Long Chain

Robert Earl Keen

One night as I lay on my pillow  
Moon shinin' bright as the dawn  
I saw a man come-a-walkin'  
He had a long chain on

I heard his chain a-clankin'  
It made a mournful sound  
Welded around his body  
Draggin' along on the ground

He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on

He came up to my window  
He looked at me and he said  
"I am so tired and hungry  
Give me a bite of your bread"

He did not look like a robber  
He didn't look like a thief  
His face was all covered in sadness  
He had a voice full of sorrow and grief

He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on

I went into my kitchen  
Got him a bowl full of meat  
A drink and a pan of cold biscuits  
That's all I had for him to eat

And though he was tired and hungry  
A bright light came over his face  
He bowed his head on his bosom  
He made a beautiful grace

He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on

Long chain, long chain, long chain  
He had a long chain on  
Long chain, long chain, long chain  
He had a long chain on

I fetched my chisel and hammer  
Offered to set him free  
He shook his head and said sadly  
"Guess, we had best let it be"

When he had finished his supper  
He thanked me again and again  
And though it's been years since I saw him  
I still hear the rattle of his chain

He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on

He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on  
He had a long chain on