

## Sixteen Tons

Stan Ridgway

Some people say a man is made out of mud  
A poor man's made out of mud and muscle and blood  
Muscle and blood and skin and bones  
A mind that's weak and a back that's strong

You load sixteen tons, what do you get  
Another day older and deeper in debt  
St. peter don't you call me 'cause i can't go  
I owe my soul to the company store

I was born one mornin' when the sun didn't shine  
I picked up my shovel and i walked to the mine  
I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal  
And the strawboss said, "well, bless my soul!"

You load sixteen tons, what do you get  
Another day older and deeper in debt  
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I was born one mornin', it was drizzlin' rain  
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name  
I was raised in the cane break by an ol' mama lion  
Cain't no high-tone woman make me walk the line

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If you see me comin' better step aside  
A lot of men didn't, a lot of men died  
One fist of iron, the other of steel  
And if the right one don't get you, then the left one will

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