

Billy (circa 1963)

Once I ran till the earth met the deep blue sky (C, Emin, Amin, Emin, G)
And there I swam, like a fish in deep waters (Dmin, G, C, D,)
And as I roamed afraid to know where I belonged (Dmin, Emin, C, Emin)
These thoughts called out to me, Billy where can you be free,
And I heard her muffled cries, She knows I have not died.

Run says me and drown yourself in the cool swell sea.
Fly says the sky, to a world that is built on high
But lying awake at night, far beneath the stars so bright,
I heard her muffled cries, she know I have not died.

I remember the morn we first knew , that a child would be born to you,
And the glorious look in your eyes, when I said that we would flee and hide
From this land of fire with its deacons beneath the sacrificial pyre,
To some far off shore, where fear would be no more.

Nigger they says to me, we're gonna hang you from the nearest tree,
Right there I closed my eyes, hoping for a while that I would die,
But she called out to me, Billy you can runaway and still be free,
And one day I will come and bring to you your son.

And so I ran, till the earth met the deep blue sky
And there I swam, searching for a way in the waters
And as I roamed so far away from my own home
I heard her muffled cries, she knows I have not died.