

# SIXTEEN TONS

written by Merle Travis in 1946  
first hit by Tennessee Ford and covered by many groups

Am Am F E  
Some people say a man is made outa mud  
Am Am F E  
A poor man's made outa muscle 'n blood...  
Am Am Dm Dm  
Muscle an' blood an' skin an' bone  
Am Am E7 E7  
A mind that's weak and a back that's strong

## Chorus

Am Am F E  
You load sixteen tons an' whaddya get?  
Am Am F E  
Another day older an' deeper in debt  
Am Am Dm Dm  
Saint Peter doncha call me 'cause I can't go  
Am Am E7 Am  
I owe my soul to the company sto'

If ya hear me a-comin' ya better step aside  
A lotta men din't an' a lotta men died  
With one fist of iron an' the other of steel  
If the right one don' getcha then the left one will.



I was born one mornin' when the sun didn't shine  
Picked up my shovel and I went to the mine  
Loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal  
And the strawboss said, "Well, Bless my soul!"

I was born one morning in the drizzlin' rain  
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name  
I was raised in the canebreak by an' ol' mama hound