

SIXTEEN TONS

(Merle Travis) As performed by Tennessee Ernie Ford

Bm

Intro (X)
|Bm A |G F# |Bm A |G F# |Bm |Em |F#m - |-|

Bm A G F#m
Some people say a man is made out of mud
Bm A G F#m
A poor man's made out of muscle and blood
BmEm
Muscle and blood and skin and bone
F#m(X)
A mind that's weak and a back that's strong

Bm A G F#
You load sixteen tons, what do you get?
Bm A G F#
Another day older, and deeper in debt
BmEm
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go
F#m(X)
I owe my soul to the company store

I was born one morning 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 straw boss said, "Well, bless my soul!"

CHORUS

BREAK

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/papa lion
Ain't no high-tone woman/man make me walk the line.

CHORUS

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

CHORUS

www.ernieford.com/SixteenTons.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixteen_Tons