

Smile As You're Passing

steven fletcher

Joy and Pain
Listen With Your Heart
Maybe It's Because
Sifiso Sami
Sitting Here By the Roadside
Sometimes
Understanding
You Wanna Be

Like every other artist, I want to share the contents of my head and my heart. Also like every other artist, these songs were inspired by things that I cannot fully understand. They are flavors, feelings, glimpses of truths that I do not really know. For example, included in this album is the song "Joy and Pain". I'd like to tell you that I really understand what this song is about - but the reality is - I don't. I am learning from these songs. They are, among other people and things in the world, my teachers. I hope you enjoy these songs and that they bring you some comfort along the road of life. And when we meet, here in this earthly plane or in the world of dreams or in some future, timeless place, I hope that both of us will smile as we are passing.

Steven Fletcher, October 2015

Steven (Steve) Fletcher was born in a small town in northern California. His father was a high school teacher who returned to university twice and ended his professional career as a university professor. His mother was an artist, a nurse and his spiritual forerunner. Steven left that small town of Healdsburg, California in his last year of high school and has been traveling geographically, vocationally and spiritually ever since. His love for writing started with a college English teacher (Mrs. Connie Mundrick) and he has been writing stories and poetry ever since. His great love for music, writing songs and specifically his chant-like, folk style, music started on a beach on Vancouver Island. Dwight Druick was the channel for that gift. Since the merging of those two gifts in 1969, he has never been far from a guitar, a collection of flutes and something to write on. This album is a collection of songs that have flowed out of Steven's spiritual and geographical travels. In addition to this CD, Steven has two anthologies of short-stories in print, a CD of instrumental music, a documentary, two CD's of stories with music and one CD of chanted and spoken prayer. He has a children's book in the process of publication in English and Chinese. He has several other CD's of songs, in the pipeline. He is currently teaching at Lanzhou University in China.



Listen With Your Heart

© Steven Fletcher 1987, 2015

Listen with your heart,
listen with your soul,
listen to the Words He brought;
with all your heart and soul.

O SON OF SPIRIT! My first counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart, that thine may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable and everlasting.

O SON OF SPIRIT! I created thee rich, why dost thou bring thyself down to poverty? Noble I made thee, wherewith dost thou abase thyself? Out of the essence of knowledge I gave thee being, why seekest thou enlightenment from anyone beside Me? Out of the clay of love I molded thee, how dost thou busy thyself with another? Turn thy sight unto thyself, that thou mayest find Me standing within thee, mighty, powerful and self-subsisting.

O SON OF MAN! Write all that We have revealed unto thee with the ink of light upon the tablet of thy spirit. Should this not be in thy power, then make thine ink of the essence of thy heart. If this thou canst not do, then write with that crimson ink that hath been shed in My path. Sweeter indeed is this to Me than all else, that its light may endure forever.

O SON OF SPIRIT! With the joyful tidings of light I hail thee: rejoice! To the court of holiness I summon thee; abide therein that thou mayest live in peace for evermore.

The above four quotations are from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh in a book entitled, *The Hidden Words*.

Joy and Pain

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I met the old man at the market,
trading in joy and in pain;
I asked for an ocean of pleasure,
he said you will pay me in pain.

How much for an ocean of joy I asked?
It's only one liter of pain.
For pain is more precious than pleasure,
for joy has no way to remain.

But if you invest your one liter,
many more times you will gain;
more than an ocean of pleasure,
more than a liter of pain.

Maybe It's Because

© Steven Fletcher 1990, 2015

I feel like someone switched on my heart,
I feel like someone switched on my soul,
I feel like someone switched off my brain.

Maybe it's because of the moon,
maybe it's because of the stars,
maybe it's because of the sun.

Maybe it's because of the wind,
maybe it's because of the rain,
maybe it's because of the sun.

Chorus:
And I don't know if I will ever be the same.

Sifiso Sami

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Ngikubita Sifiso Sami,
kodvwa ngi hamba kanjani (2x)

Oh Nkulunkulu, Sifiso Sami,
hlobisi nhlitiyo yami. (2x)

A rough translation:

I call You my heart's desire,
but I walk like this.

Oh God, my Heart's Desire,
cleanse my heart.

Sitting Here by the Roadside

© Steven Fletcher 1971, 2015

Sitting here by the roadside, trying to catch a ride,
sitting here by this roadside, trying to get so high;
I don't mind the time of day, nor the way it seems
today,
I don't mind that you can't stop, while I'm resting
here.

Been sitting here by this roadside now, for such a
long, long time,
I'll sit by this roadside now, until the end of time;
I don't mind that you can't stop; I'll see you another
time.
I don't mind you pass me by, on the road of life.

Chorus:

But if'n you could find it in your heart,
the seeds of love somehow to start;
if you could find a way somehow,
(just) smile as you're passing?

Sometimes

© Steven Fletcher 1992, 2015

Sometimes I feel, oh so far from Him,
sometimes I feel, oh so far;
sometimes I feel, oh so far from Him,
sometimes I feel, oh so far.

Sorrow not save that thou art far from Us,
sorrow not save that thou art far.
Sorrow not save that thou art far from Us,
sorrow not save that thou art far.

Sometimes I feel—so much happiness,
sometimes I feel—so much joy.
Sometimes I feel—so much happiness,
sometimes I feel—so much joy.

The phrase: "Sorrow not save that thou art far from
Us" is taken from the passage,

"O SON OF MAN! Sorrow not save that thou art far
from Us. Rejoice not save that thou art drawing near
and returning unto Us."

The phrase is found in *The Hidden Words* authored by
Bahá'u'lláh.

Understanding

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I can't promise to always be the same,
I can't promise that I'll never change;
and I can't promise to always bring you tea,
but I can promise all eternity.

But I can promise that I'll always try,
to see and know you more than with my eyes;
and I can promise that I'll always try,
to know you more each day, until I die.

And if I could ask you to promise me one thing,
if I were blind or I could not sing;
promise me that you'd be my eyes,
or promise me that you'd sing for me.

If I do fail, to see what you see,
promise me you'll take me patiently;
keep me, keep me, gently in your hand,
tell me, tell me, till I understand.

Chorus:

Somehow life, well is made for change,
each day is different from our yesterday;
today we are more, than we were yesterday,
growing well and changing, through eternity.

You Wanna Be

© Steven Fletcher 1995, 2015

You wanna be sad, plan to only take love;
you wanna be sad, plan only to take. (2x)

You wanna be glad plan only to give your love;
you wanna be glad plan only to give. (2x)

I heard a secret, don't know if you did too;
I heard a secret, did you hear it too? (2x)

A bird was singing, maybe it was the wintertime,
a bird was singing, maybe it was the spring. (2x)

A child was smiling, maybe inside my heart;
A child was smiling, maybe it was you. (2x)

You wanna be sad, plan to only take from love,
you wanna be sad, plan only to take. (2x)

You wanna be glad, plan to only to give your love,
you wanna be glad, plan only to give. (2x)

If you like this music please share it with your friends. It is available for streaming on many internet sites and available for purchase on several well known sites throughout the world. You can also find us on several social media sites. We appreciate all favorable feedback (who doesn't). You can contact us through Gentle Place Publishing (gentleplace.com) or search for us through your favorite search engine. Please stay in touch.

MAYBE IT IS BECAUSE

I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE - SWITCHED ON MY HEART
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE - SWITCHED ON MY SOUL
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE - SWITCHED OFF MY BRAIN
• AND I DON'T KNOW IF I WILL EVER
BE THE SAME

MAYBE IT IS BECAUSE OF THE MOODY
STARS
SUN

MAYBE IT IS BECAUSE OF THE WIND
RAIN
SUN

3x YOU-WANNA-BE SAD PLAN TO ONLY TAKE ^{LOVE}

YOU-WANNA-BE GLAD PLAN TO GIVE IT

3x YOU WANNA BE GLAD PLAN TO GIVE ALL THE LOVE

YOU WANNA BE SAD PLAN TO TAKE IT

UNDERSTANDING

STAY
W/PILES

(OO)

I CAN'T PROMISE TO ALWAYS BE THE SAME
I CAN'T PROMISE THAT I'LL NEVER CHANGE
AND I CAN'T PROMISE TO ~~BRING~~ ^{ALWAYS} BRING YOU TEA
BUT I CAN PROMISE ALL ETERNITY

(FGG)

• - SOMEHOW LIFE, WELL IS MADE FOR CHANGE
- EACH DAY IS DIFFERENT FROM ONE YESTERDAY
• TODAY WE ARE MORE THAN WE WERE YESTERDAY
GROWING WELL AND CHANGING THROUGH ETERNITY

BUT I CAN PROMISE THAT I'LL ALWAYS TRY
TO SEE AND KNOW YOU MORE THAN WITH MY EYES
AND I CAN PROMISE THAT I'LL ALWAYS TRY
TO KNOW YOU MORE EACH DAY UNTIL I DIE
AND IF I COULD ASK YOU TO PROMISE ME ONE THING
IF I WERE BLIND OR I COULD NOT SING
PROMISE ME THAT YOU'D BE MY EYES
OR PROMISE ME THAT YOU'D SING FOR ME
IF I DO FAIL TO SEE WHAT YOU SEE
PROMISE ME TO TAKE ME PATIENTLY
KEEP ME, KEEP ME, GENTLY IN YOUR HAND
TELL ME, TELL ME, TILL I UNDERSTAND

FC EAR

SITTIN' HERE BY THE ROADSIDE

SITTIN' HERE BY THE ROADSIDE
TRYING TO CATCH A RIDE
SITTIN' HERE BY THE ROADSIDE
TRYING TO GET SO HIGH

I DON'T MIND THE TIME OF DAY
NOR THE WAY IT SEEMS TODAY
I DON'T MIND THAT YOU CAN'T STOP
WHILE I'M RESTIN' HERE

CHORUS BUT IF'N YOU COULD FIND ^{IT IN YOUR HEART} ~~A WAY~~
THE SEEDS OF LOVE SOMEHOW TO START
IF YOU COULD FIND A WAY SOMEHOW
~~SMILE~~ SMILE AS YOU ^{ARE} PASSING
SMILE AS YOU ARE PASSING BY
SMILE - AS YOU'RE PASSING

BEEN SITTIN' HERE BY THIS ROADSIDE NOW
FOR SUCH A LONG LONG TIME
I'LL SIT BY THIS ROADSIDE
UNTIL THE END OF TIME (SOMETIMES CV-3x)

I DON'T MIND THAT YOU CAN'T STOP
I'LL SEE YOU ANOTHER TIME
I DON'T MIND YOU PASS ME BY
ON THE ROAD OF LIFE

CHORUS