B.B. King, Why I Sing The Blues

Everybody wants to know

Why I sing the blues

Yes, I say everybody wanna know

Why I sing the blues

Well, I've been around a long time

I really have paid my dues

When I first got the blues

They brought me over on a ship

Men were standing over me

And a lot more with a whip

And everybody wanna know

Why I sing the blues

Well, I've been around a long time

Mm, I've really paid my dues

I've laid in a ghetto flat

Cold and numb

I heard the rats tell the bedbugs

To give the roaches some

Everybody wanna know

Why I'm singing the blues

Yes, I've been around a long time

People, I've paid my dues

I stood in line

Down at the County Hall

I heard a man say, " We're gonna build

Some new apartments for y'all"

And everybody wanna know

Yes, they wanna know

Why I'm singing the blues

Yes, I've been around a long, long time

Yes, I've really, really paid my dues

Now I'm gonna play Lucille.

My kid's gonna grow up

Gonna grow up to be a fool

'Cause they ain't got no more room

No more room for him in school

And everybody wanna know

Everybody wanna know

Why I'm singing the blues

I say I've been around a long time

Yes, I've really paid some dues

Yeah, you know the company told me

Guess you're born to lose

Everybody around me, people

It seems like everybody got the blues

But I had 'em a long time

I've really, really paid my dues

You know I ain't ashamed of it, people

I just love to sing my blues

I walk through the cities, people

On my bare feet

I had a fill of catfish and chitterlings

Up and down Beal Street

You know I'm singing the blues

Yes, I really

I just have to sing my blues

I've been around a long time

People, I've really, really paid my dues

Now Father Time is catching up with me

Gone is my youth

I look in the mirror everyday

And let it tell me the truth

I'm singing the blues

Mm, I just have to sing the blues

I've been around a long time Yes, yes, I've really paid some dues Yeah, they told me everything Would be better out in the country Everything was fine I caught me a bus uptown, baby And every people, all the people Got the same trouble as mine I got the blues, huh huh I say I've been around a long time I've really paid some dues One more time, fellows! Blind man on the corner Begging for a dime The rollers come and caught him And throw him in the jail for a crime I got the blues Mm, I'm singing my blues I've been around a long time Mm, I've really paid some dues Can we do just one more? Oh I thought I'd go down to the welfare To get myself some grits and stuff But a lady stand up and she said " You haven't been around long enough " That's why I got the blues Mm, the blues I say, I've been around a long time I've really, really paid my dues Fellows, tell them one more time. Ha, ha, ha. That's all right, fellows. Yeah!