

SIXTEEN TONS (MERLE TRAVIS, 1946) *

Am G F E
Some people say a man is made outta mud

Am G F E
A poor man's made outta muscle and blood

Am C F E
Muscle and blood and skin and bones

Am E
A mind that's a-weak and a back that's strong

Chorus:

 Am G F E
You load Sixteen Tons, what do you get?

Am G F E
Another day older and deeper in debt

 Am C Dm E
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go

 Am E Am
I owe my soul to the company store

Born one morning it was drizzle and rain
Fighting and Trouble are my middle name
I was raised in a canebrake by an old mama lion
Ain't no high-toned woman make me walk the line
(Chorus)

If you see me coming better step aside
A lot of men didn't and a lot of men died
I got one fist of iron and the other of steel
And if the right one don't get you, then the left one will (Chorus)

Born one morning when the sun didn't shine
Picked up a shovel and I walked to the mine
I hauled Sixteen Tons of number 9 coal
And the straw-boss said, "Well, bless my soul" (Chorus)

*Recorded by Tennessee Ernie Ford