

Leonard Cohen - Avalanche

tom:

Em

Em

[Verse 1]

Em C Em
I stepped into an avalanche,
D Em
it covered up my soul;

C
When I am not this hunchback that you see,

Em D Em
I sleep beneath a golden hill.

G B7
You who wish to conquer pain,
Em C B7
you must learn, learn to serve me well.

[Verse 2]

Em C Em
You strike my side by accident
D Em
As you go down for your gold.

C
The cripple here that you clothe and feed

Em D Em
Is neither starved nor cold;

G B7
He does not ask for your company,
Em C B7
Not at the centre, the centre of the world.

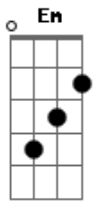
[Verse 3]

Em C Em
When I am on a pedestal,
D Em
You did not raise me there.

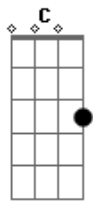
C
Your laws do not compel me
Em D Em
To kneel grotesque and bare.

G B7
I myself am the pedestal

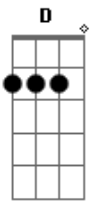
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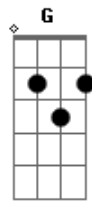
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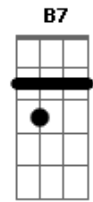
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Em C B7
For this ugly hump at which you stare.

[Verse 4]

Em C Em
You who wish to conquer pain,
D Em
You must learn what makes me kind;

C
The crumbs of love that you offer me,
Em D Em
They're the crumbs I've left behind.

G B7
Your pain is no credential here,
Em C B7
It's just the shadow, shadow of my wound.

[Verse 5]

Em C Em
I have begun to long for you,
D Em
I who have no greed;

C
I have begun to ask for you,
Em D Em
I who have no need.

G B7
You say you've gone away from me,
Em C B7
But I can feel you when you breathe.

[Verse 6]

Em C Em
Do not dress in those rags for me,
D Em
I know you are not poor;

C
And don't love me quite so fiercely now
Em D Em
When you know that you are not sure,

G B7
It is your turn, beloved,
Em C B7
And it is your flesh that I wear.