

Railways in Heaven

© Cortney Cameron
cortney.cameron@gmail.com

An original Appalachian folk labor song. Note: A 2-10-0 is a train.

Verse 1

I watched my brother disappear the day the mountain slid
Company men said "Keep digging coal, ain't no saving the dead"
Well, I lit this train from company town -- the year was 1910
I reckoned I'd go some place I could see him again

Refrain

There ain't no railways in heaven, that's what I've been told
Just tryin' to keep this two-ten-zero fast enough to keep runnin' out the cold
There ain't no railways in heaven, that's what they all say
Just tryin' to keep this two-ten-zero fast enough to try to get away

Verse 2

The engine reached a fever pitch as I headed down the line
Came around the curve in Knoxville when it was 1929
As the papers screamed about the stocks, revenueurs broke my jars
They just fear for folks' safety but they don't care if we starve

Verse 3

By the time I reached Atlanta, it was 1993
And this new world, it ain't got a place for laborers like me
But the bills kept on coming as the factories all shut down
But I got a paira cheap shoes and my family lost the house

Verse 4

I hit Jacksonville in 2010 running out of steam
When suits sold me education as the secret to the dream
Then they made fun of my accent and how I held my fork
Graduated with a messa debt and not a licka work

Coda

Oh, I reckon I'll go some place I can see him again

Chords

Chorus: Bm / D / A / Bm / G / D / A / Bm

Verse: Bm / G / D / A / G / Bm

Coda: A / Bm