

See that my grave is kept clean

Blind Lemon Jefferson

Well there's one kind favor I ask of you.
Well there's one kind favor I ask of you.
Lord there's one kind favor, I'll ask of you.
See that my grave is kept clean.

It's a long lane that's got no end.
It's a long lane that's got no end.
It's a long lane, ain't got no end.
And it's a bad wind that there would chain.

Lord there's two white horses in a line.
Well there's two white horses in a line.
Well there's two white horses, in a line.
One take me to my buryin' ground.

My heart stop beatin' and my hands got cold
My heart stop beatin' and my hands got cold
Well my heart stop beatin' Lord, my hands got cold
It wasn't long before everybody climbs aboard.

Have you ever heard a coffin sound?
Have you ever heard a coffin sound?
Have you ever heard a coffin sound?
Then you know that the poor boy's in the ground.

O, dig my grave with a silver spade.
Well dig my grave with a silver spade.
Well dig my grave with a silver spade.
You may leave me down with a golden chain.

Have you ever heard the church bells toll?
Have you ever heard those church bells toll?
Have you ever heard those church bells toll?
Then you know that the poor boy's dead and gone.



See that my grave is kept clean is a Blues song written and composed by the legendary Texas bluesman Blind Lemon Jefferson (1893-1929). The song, recorded in 1927, is considered a blues standard, and was covered extensively, by artists such as Bob Dylan, B. B King, Lou Reed and the Grateful Dead, just to name a few. Narratively, the song addresses death and dying in an unrestricted way. In the song, the author speaks about his upcoming death, and urges some other person to make him "one kind favor" by keeping his grave clean after his death.

The blues as a genre was originated by the African-American communities, in the south of the U.S, around the beginning of the 20th century. The blues roots can be traced back to the African slaves and their descendants, and narratively it often deals with negative or troubled situations, in a way that reflects the hard lives of the African-Americans at that time. In some ways, the blues spirit contains the hardship and bereavement experienced by the African-Americans, and through its musical (such as repetition) and lyrical (such as uncensored writing) mechanisms, it offers them a modest relief from their daily life. Talking freely about death and somewhat accept the idea of death, could maybe relieve the pain of the elderly nowadays, who face constant illness and bereavement.

Here is the link to the original recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pX3mxjtpyBc>



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