

The Sound of Silence

Paul Simon

Listen to the sound,
Listen to the sound,
Listen to the sound of silence.

Hello darkness my old friend,
I've come to talk to you again.
Because a vision softly creeping,
left its seeds while I was sleeping.
And the vision that was planted in my brain
still remains, within the sound of silence.

In restless dreams I walked alone,
narrow streets of cobblestone.
'Neath the halo of a streetlamp,
I turned a collar to the cold and damp.
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light
that split the night, and touched the sound of silence.

And in the naked light I saw
ten-thousand people maybe more.
People talking without speaking,
people hearing without listening.
People writing songs that voices never share,
and no one dare, disturb the sound of silence.

"Fools!" said I, "You do not know,
Silence like a cancer grows,
Hear my words that I might teach you,

Take my arms that I might reach you.”
But the words, like silent raindrops, fell
and echoed, in the wells of silence.

And the people bowed and prayed
to the neon god they made.
And the sign flashed out its warning
in the words that it was forming.
And the signs said, “The words of the prophets
are written on the subway walls and tenement halls.”
And whispered in the sounds of silence.

Listen to the sound,
Listen to the sound of silence.
Silence.