

## Why I Sing The Blues

B.B. King

Everybody wants to know  
Yes, I say everybody wanna know  
Well, I've been around a long time  
When I first got the blues  
Men were standing over me  
And everybody wanna know  
Well, I've been around a long time  
I've laid in a ghetto flat  
I heard the rats tell the bedbugs  
Everybody wanna know  
Yes, I've been around a long time  
I stood in line  
I heard a man say, "We're gonna build  
And everybody wanna know  
Why I'm singing the blues  
Yes, I've really, really paid my dues  
Now I'm gonna play Lucille.  
My kid's gonna grow up  
'Cause they ain't got no more room  
And everybody wanna know  
Why I'm singing the blues  
Yes, I've really paid some dues  
Yeah, you know the company told me  
Everybody around me, people  
But I had 'em a long time  
You know I ain't ashamed of it, people  
I walk through the cities, people  
I had a fill of catfish and chitterlings  
You know I'm singing the blues  
I've been around a long time  
Why I sing the blues  
Why I sing the blues  
I really have paid my dues  
They brought me over on a ship  
And a lot more with a whip  
Why I sing the blues  
Mm, I've really paid my dues  
Cold and numb  
To give the roaches some  
Why I'm singing the blues  
People, I've paid my dues  
Down at the County Hall  
Some new apartments for y'all"  
Yes, they wanna know  
Yes, I've been around a long, long time  
Gonna grow up to be a fool  
No more room for him in school  
Everybody wanna know  
I say I've been around a long time  
Guess you're born to lose  
It seems like everybody got the blues  
I've really, really paid my dues  
I just love to sing my blues  
On my bare feet  
Up in Down Beale Street  
Yes, I really I just have to sing my blues  
People, I've really, really paid my dues

Now Father Time is catching up with me      Gone is my youth  
I look in the mirror everyday                      And let it tell me the truth  
I'm singing the blues                                  Mm, I just have to sing the blues  
I've been around a long time                      Yes, yes, I've really paid some dues  
Yeah, they told me everything      Would be better out in the country  
Everything was fine                                  I caught me a bus uptown, baby  
And every people, all the people Got the same trouble as mine  
I got the blues, huh huh                      I say I've been around a long time  
I've really paid some dues

One more time, fellows!

Blind man on the corner                      Begging for a dime  
The rollers come and caught him              And throw him in the jail for a crime  
I got the blues      Mm, I'm singing my blues  
I've been around a long time                      Mm, I've really paid some dues

Can we do just one more?

Oh I thought I'd go down to the welfare      To get myself some grits and stuff  
But a lady stand up and she said "You haven't been around long enough"  
That's why I got the blues      Mm, the blues  
I say, I've been around a long time              I've really, really paid my dues

Fellows, tell them one more time.

Ha, ha, ha. That's all right, fellows.  
Yeah!