

The Price of Coal by Jim Saville

Inspired by The Price of Fish by Ron Baxter of Fleetwood

Do not ask the price of coal
Why should you need to know?
Sea coal, cobs or nutty slack;
All wrapped up in a filthy sack.
Ignore the miner's aching back.
No, you don't need to know.

Do not ask the price of coal -
Why should you have to know?
Of men, crippled down the mine;
Of men made old before their time;
Of sacrifice upon the picket line -
No. you don't have to know.

Do not ask the price of coal -
Why should you want to know?
Know of men entombed beneath the land,
Or working seams where they cannot stand:
Of working practices you'd not understand -
No you don't want to know.

The price of coal,
As I've heard tell,
Is a rumble of rocks
And a funeral bell.