

Howie Good: Last Words

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MORE LIGHT

I'm going away tonight. I'm going over the valley.  
I must get to the station.

Boy, fetch my fiddle. Where is my clock?  
All compound things are subject to breaking up.

Only one man ever understood me.  
And he didn't really understand me.

Codeine . . . bourbon.  
Nothing soothes pain like human touch.

More light.  
Open the second shutter so that more light may come in.

The Earth is suffocating.

Note: Assembled from death-bed sayings attributed to Salvador Dali, James Brown, Cosmo Lang, Babe Ruth, Georg Friedrich Wilhelm Hegel, Siddhartha, Frederic Chopin, Bobby Fischer, Robert Roy MacGregor, Tallulah Bankhead, and Johan Wolfgang von Goethe.

## A GREAT PERHAPS

What is this?  
It is walking toward me, without hurrying.

The sadness will last forever.

Write. . . write. . . pencil . . . paper.  
I have not told half of what I saw.

Southerly gales, squalls, lee rail under water,  
wet bunks. . . . Hurray for anarchy!

Now I can cross the Shifting Sands.  
Please put out the light.

I am off in search of a great perhaps.  
God will forgive me. It is his profession.

Note: Assembled from death-bed sayings attributed to Leonard Bernstein, Jean Cocteau, Marco Polo, Richard Halliburton, George Engel, L. Frank Baum, Vincent van Gogh, Theodore Roosevelt, and Heinrich Heine.

BUT SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME, SOON

The fog is rising. Now comes the mystery.  
I believe we should adjourn this meeting to another place.

There, do you hear the bell? Don't you hear it ringing?

Go on, get out.  
You can keep the things of bronze and stone. . . .

I've got to get to the top of the hill.  
It is time for me to become an apprentice once more.

Oh, do not cry. The paper burns, but the words fly free.

Note: Assembled from death-bed sayings attributed to Adam Smith, Ludwig van Beethoven, Karl Marx, Emily Dickinson, Henry Ward Beecher, Damon Runyon, J.P. Morgan, Andrew Jackson, Akiba ben Joseph, and Lord Beaverbrook.

IN THAT CASE WHAT IS THE QUESTION?

You sons of bitches. Give my love to Mother.  
This is no time to make new enemies.

The room is jumping up and down.  
Am I dying, or is it my birthday?

Drink to me. My fun days are over.  
The world is a bubble – trouble wherever you go.

I am just going outside. Goodbye, everybody!  
Never drive at night. Only those who are tortured

by love can understand what I mean.

Note: Assembled from death-bed sayings attributed to Gertrude Stein, Sam Bass, Lady Nancy Astor, Voltaire, James Dean, Captain Lawrence Oates, Hart Crane, Pablo Picasso, Joseph Lucas, Martha Beck, and Francis “Two Gun” Crowley.

## FAST MUSIC

I owe much; I have nothing;  
the rest I leave to the poor.

I want everybody to be happy.  
I know I'm happy.

Why not? Yeah.  
I am about to take my last voyage,

a great leap in the dark.  
Don't you dare ask God to help me.

It is very beautiful over there.  
Do you hear the rain? Do you hear the rain?

Get my swan costume ready.  
Curtain! Fast music! Light!

This isn't Hamlet, you know.

Note: Assembled from death-bed sayings attributed Joan Crawford, Laurence Olivier, Thomas Edison, Anna Pavlova, Jessica Dubroff, Ethel Barrymore, Timothy Leary, Francois Rabelais, Florenz Ziegfeld, and Thomas Hobbes.