

You Bowed Down  
(Elvis Costello)

I suppose you're entitled to know  
why I'm making contact  
With acquaintances scattered all over the land  
I'd promise you now and again that I'd honor  
the contract  
if it hadn't crumbled away in my hand  
Well we broke that vow independently now  
But I don't know why you absolutely deny  
You bowed down  
You bowed down

When you first looked away I might say  
it was really a kindness  
I must have hurt to see how dreams sour  
Now they say that justice and love are the  
next things to blindness  
Well you're getting plenty of both of them now  
And so you parade where appointments are made  
and never meant to be kept unless you accept

You'll value the burnt amber of falling leaves  
and you'll long to delay  
You feel their breath as they whisper  
It won't hurt you now to betray  
if you just bow down

And now every time that we meet on the edge of hysteria  
you're helping them sell off some new party line  
I remember a time when you would have  
seemed so superior  
Now you say "will you please meet this  
good friend of mine"  
So you're in demand as long as you kiss their hand  
But all the applause is for their name not yours

Roger McGuinn "Back From Rio"  
Arista Records 1990