

**THE THOUGHT STAYED FREE**

Tom Paxton

A thought was born in the mind of a man  
And it didn't please you and it didn't please me.  
So we all got together and we made our plan  
To drown that thought in the deep blue sea.

So we wrapped it up in a chain we bought  
???? it didn't please you and it didn't please me.  
To the bottom of the ocean we threw that thought  
And the chain went down, but the thought stayed free.

We locked that thought in the dungeon cell.  
We slammed the door, threw away the key.  
And how it happened no one can tell.  
For the door stayed locked but the thought went free.

So the councillors met and laws were passed  
The laws were nailed on every tree.  
All the sheriffs were summoned, and troops were amassed  
All the tanks turned out, but the thought went free.

And the councillors fears were realised  
And they were frightened as they could be  
For they only had to look in peoples eyes  
For the terrible news that the thought was free.

Yes the thought was free and it spread like fire  
Though it didn't please you and it didn't please me.  
It was banished from the land by the King's desire  
And the boat pulled out, but the thought stayed free.

Now worst of all in this terrible tale  
Though we tried to hurl it from our shores  
Not only did this troublesome thought prevail  
But worst of all one thought bred more.