

# 16 Tons 6.9 Alto

Merle Travis

Introduction

Verse 1

You know, some folks say a man's  
made out of mud, MUD! A poor man's made out of muscle and blood, BLOOD!

Chorus

Mus-cle and blood, skin and bones, a mind that's weak but a back that's strong! You load  
six-teen tons and what do you get? A - no-ther day old-er and a deep-er in debt, Saint  
Pet-er don't you call me be-coz I can't go, — I owe my soul to the com-pa-ny store.

Instrumental Fill

Verse 2

I was born one mor - ning when the  
sun did-'nt shine, I picked up my shov - el and walked off to the mine, I load-ed  
six-teen tons of num-ber nine coal, The mine boss swore well damn your soul! You load  
six-teen tons and what do you get? A - no-ther day old-er and a deep-er in debt, Saint  
Pet-er don't you call me be-coz I can't go, — I owe my soul to the com-pa-ny store.

Swing!  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$   
 $\text{♩} = 108$

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37 Instrumental Fill Verse 3

If you see me com - ing bet - ter

40

step as - ide, — A lot of men did-n't and a lot of men died, One fist of ir-on and the

44 Chorus

oth-er of steel, Well if the right one don't get you then the left one will! You load

47

six-teen tons and what do you get? A - no-ther day old-er and a deep-er in debt, Saint

51

Pet-er don't you call me be-coz I can't go, — I owe my soul to the com-pa-ny store.