



Bird's Katabasis *

Come with me
if you wanna go to Kansas City!

So we stood,
exchanging words of sadness,
grieving and shedding tears.
And now the spirit of Achilles... appeared,...
And [his] ghost... knew me,
and spoke through the tears:

I'm feeling low down and blue.
My heart's full of sorrow.
Don't hardly know what to do.
Where will I be tomorrow!?

Goin' to Kansas City. Want to go, too? No, you can't make it with me. Goin' to Kansas City. Sorry that I can't
/ take you.

When you see me comin', raise your window high. When you see me leaving, baby, hang your head and cry.
I'm afraid there's nothing in Miss Creamy's dreamy town a honky-tonky monkey-woman can do.
She'd only bring herself down.

“Odysseus, ...scion of Zeus,...
what could your resolute mind devise
that exceeds this:
to dare to descend to Hades,
where live the heedless dead,
the disembodied ghosts of men?”

So long,
everybody!

The time has come and I must leave you. So, if don't never see your smiling face again, make a promise
you'll remember, like a Christmas day in December, that I told you all through thick and thin,
on up until the end,
Parker's been your friend.

...and I replied: "Achilles,...
greatest of Achaean warriors,...
no man has been more blessed than you,...
nor will be in time to come,
...we Argives considered you a god while you lived,
and now you rule, a power, among the un-living.
Do not grieve, then, Achilles, at your death."

Don't hang your head when you see when you see those six pretty horses pullin' me. Put a twenty dollar
silver piece on my watch chain. Look at the smile on my face, and sing a little song to let the world know
/ I'm really free.

Don't cry for me, 'cause I'm going to Kansas City.

These words he answered...:
"Glorious Odysseus,
don't try to reconcile me to my dying.
I'd rather serve as another man's labourer,
as a poor peasant without land,
and be alive on Earth,
than be lord of all the lifeless dead...."

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if you want to go to Kansas City!

* Illustration from Isabelle Guglielmi, copied from her website *fromside2side.com*. All
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