

Fair Palestine

Penny Stone, 2012

Well I'll tell you a story 'bout some friends of mine,
In the towns and the wadis of fair Palestine,
There's stones in the soft ground, sunshine beating down,
Under the olive trees, we take our time.

But there's trouble everywhere, easy to see,
Walking in Palestine, nobody's free -
This old occupation feels heavy to bear,
But so many are still standing tall.

***Why do you stay here? Well there's seeds we can sow.
Why do you stay here? For to make the trees grow.
Why do you stay here? Well it's all that I know.
Why do you stay here? Here is my home.***

Resistance: I'll tell you 'bout a farming man,
Rise early each morning to work on the land.
His father, his grandfather, worked before him,
Now his sons and his daughters, they won't let them in.

They built a barrier, cut through the land,
To the army you must ask permission to pass,
They blasted the ground, and they bulldozed the trees,
But we live for the future, we keep planting seeds.

***Why do you stay here? They're uprooting your trees.
Why do you stay here? You can't do as you please
Why do you stay here? I wish your life was easier
Why do you stay here? Here is my home.***

One woman I walked beside, just for a day,
She was born in the old town, and she's seen it change,
She walked down Shuhada St. before they came
To shut down half the city and lock down the gates.

She grows green on the rooftop, whilst soldiers look down,
And she grows tall the children with tears rolling down,
Don't be afraid, she says, you must be proud -
I am Palestinian, she smiles and she frowns.

***Why do you stay here when they're caging you in?
Why do you stay here, where they stop you from walking?
Why do you stay here where you have to keep watching?
Why do you stay here? Here is my home.***

Born in this village, another young man,
Every Friday he gathers to walk to the land,
Access to water wells we used to have,
Now these soldiers from Israel they're blocking the path.

Open your eyes and ears soldiers, we tell,
Our lands they are occupied, your minds as well,
More than 10,000 times I have stood where I stand today,
We will keep walking until we are free.

***Why do you stay here every Friday at noon?
Why do you stay here when they're shooting you down?
Why do you stay here when they blockade the town?
Why do you stay here? Here is my home.***

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