

# AVALANCHE

Words & Music by  
Leonard Cohen

Slowly  
Fm



Piano

*p*

Red.

*f* *p*

\*

Fm Db

1. I stepped in - to an av - a-lanche



Fm Eb 3 fr. Fm

it cov-ered up my soul

Db

When I am not this hunch back that you see

Fm Eb 3 fr. Fm

I sleep beneath the gold - en hills

Ab Gm

You \_\_\_\_\_ who wish to \_\_\_\_\_ con - quer pain\_ you must



Fm



Bb



learn to serve me well.

The first system of music features a vocal line in the treble clef with lyrics "learn to serve me well." The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a steady eighth-note pattern and a left hand with a simple bass line. Chord diagrams for Fm and Bb are shown above the vocal line.

Ab



Cm



The second system of music continues the piano accompaniment from the first system. The right hand maintains the eighth-note pattern, while the left hand has a few notes. Chord diagrams for Ab and Cm are shown above the system.

The third system of music continues the piano accompaniment. The right hand has a more complex eighth-note pattern, and the left hand has a few notes.

Fm



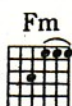
Db



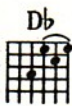
2. You scrape my side by ac - ci - dent

The fourth system of music features a vocal line in the treble clef with lyrics "2. You scrape my side by ac - ci - dent". The piano accompaniment continues with a right hand eighth-note pattern and a left hand bass line. Chord diagrams for Fm and Db are shown above the vocal line.





as you go down for your gold

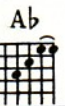


the crip - ple here that you clothe — and feed



3 fr.

is nei - ther starved nor cold.



He does not ask for your — com - pa - ny — not at the



Fm Db

cen - ter, cen - ter of the world.

This system contains a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It features two guitar chord diagrams: Fm (F major minor) and Db (D-flat major). The lyrics are "cen - ter, cen - ter of the world." The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with a continuous eighth-note pattern and a left-hand part with a simple bass line.

*Last time* ⊕

This system contains piano accompaniment. The right-hand part features a melodic line with a long note at the end of the phrase. The left-hand part has a simple bass line. The system is marked with the instruction "Last time" and a circled cross symbol.

Cm

*D. S.* %

This system contains piano accompaniment. The right-hand part features a melodic line with a long note at the end of the phrase. The left-hand part has a simple bass line. The system is marked with the instruction "D. S." and a percent sign symbol. A Cm (C minor) guitar chord diagram is shown above the staff.

Cm

dim.

Ped.

Fm

pp

\*

1. I stepped into an avalanche  
 it covered up my soul  
 When I am not this hunch back that you see  
 I sleep beneath the golden hills  
 You who wish to conquer pain  
 you must learn to serve me well.



2. You scrape my side by accident  
as you go down for gold  
The cripple here that you clothe and feed  
is neither starved nor cold.  
He does not ask for your company  
not at the center, center of the world.

3. When I'm on a pedestal  
you do not raise me there  
Your laws do not compel me  
to kneel grotesque and bare  
I myself am the pedestal  
for this ugly hump that you see.

4. You who wish to conquer pain  
you must learn what makes me kind  
The crumbs of love that you offer me  
they're the crumbs I've left behind  
Your pain no credentials here  
it's just a shadow, shadow of my wound.

5. I have begun to long for you  
I who have no creed  
I have begun to ask for you  
I who have no need  
You say you've gone away from me  
but I can feel you when you breathe.

6. Do not dress in those rags for me  
I know you are not poor  
And don't love me quite so fiercely now  
when you know that you are not sure  
It is your turn to love  
it is your flesh that I wear.