

The Shifting Whispering Sands
Johnny Cash

Intro:

| C | C | C | C |

G

I discovered the valley of the shifting, whispering sands

While prospecting in a western state.

C

I saw the silent windmills, the crumbling water tanks,

The bones of the cattle picked clean by buzzards, bleached by the desert sun.

G

I stumbled over a crumbling buckboard nearly covered by the sand.

And stopping to rest, I heard a tinkling, whispering sound,

C

F

And suddenly realized that even though the wind was quiet,

C

The sand did not lie still.

I seemed to be surrounded by a mystery

D7

So heavy and oppressive I could scarcely breathe.

G

For weeks I wandered aimlessly in the valley,

C

Seeking answers to the many questions that raced through my mind.

Where was ev ryone? Why the white bones, the dry wells,

G

The baron valley where the people must have lived and died?

I sat down and buried my face in my hands.

C

And resting, I learned the secret of the shifting, whispering sands.

How I managed to escape from the valley, I don t know.

G

But now to pay my debt for being saved, I must tell you

What I learned out on the desert so many years ago.

C

G7

(When the day is hardly quiet and the breeze seems not to blow,

C

One would think the sand was resting but you ll find this is not so.

G7

It is whisp ring, softly whisp ring, as it slowly moves a-long.

C

And those who stop and listen, it will sing this mournful song.

F

C

Of side-winders and the horn toad on the thorny chaparral,

D7

G

In the sunny days and the moonlight nights, the lonely coyotes yell.)

C

G7

How the stars seem they could touch you as you lay and gaze on high

C

At the heavens where you re hoping you ll be going when you die.

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