

**The Future**  
**Leonard Cohen**

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From: Clay Jonathan Boutilier

THE FUTURE (L. Cohen)  
from Columbia Records release THE FUTURE by LEONARD COHEN (CK 53226)

Transcribed by Clay Boutilier 07/30/95

URL: <http://www.cgl.uwaterloo.ca/~cjboutil/>

[Intro]

**Bm**

[Verse 1]

Give me back my broken night, my mirrored room, my secret life  
**A6** **F#7** **Bm**  
it s lonely here, there s no one left to torture

**Em**  
Give me absolute control over every living soul  
**A6** **Bm**  
And lie beside me baby, that s an order!

**Em**  
Give me crack an anal sex, take the only tree that s left  
**A6** **F#7** **Bm**  
and stuff it up the hole in your culture

**Em**  
Give me back the Berlin Wall, give me Stalin and St. Paul  
**A6** **F#7** **Bm**  
I ve seen the future, brother: it is murder.

[Chorus]

**Em** **D**  
Things are gonna slide (slide) in all directions  
**Em** **D**  
Won t be nothing (won t be) nothing you can t measure anymore.  
**Em** **G**  
The blizzard, the blizzard of the world has crossed the threshold  
**Gm** **D**

and it has overturned the order of the soul

**A**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

**Bm**

I wonder what they meant

**A**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

**Bm**

I wonder what they meant

**A**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

**Bm**

I wonder what they meant

[Verse 2]

(same chords as first)

You don't know me from the wind, you never will, you never did  
I'm the little Jew who wrote the Bible  
I've seen nations rise and fall, I've heard their stories, heard them all  
but love's the only engine of survival  
Your servant here he has been told to say it clear to say it cold:  
It's over, it ain't going any further  
And now the wheels of heaven stop, you feel the devil's riding crop  
Get ready for the future: it is murder.

[Chorus]

**Em**

**D**

Things are gonna slide (slide) in all directions

**Em**

**D**

Won't be nothing (won't be) nothing you can't measure anymore.

**Em**

**G**

The blizzard, the blizzard of the world has crossed the threshold

**Gm**

**D**

and it has overturned the order of the soul

**A**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

**Bm**

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**Bm**

I wonder what they meant

**A**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

**Bm**

I wonder what they meant

[Verse 3]

There'll be the breaking of the ancient western code

**Em**

Your private life will suddenly explode

**Bm**

There ll be phantoms, there ll be fires on the road

**G7**

**F#**

and the white man dancing

**Bm**

You ll see your woman hanging upside down

**Em**

her features covered by her fallen gown

**Bm**

and all the lousy little poets coming around

**G7**

**F#**

trying to sound like Charlie Manson

**Bm**

and the white man dancing

**Em**

Give me back the Berlin Wall, give me Stalin and St. Paul

**A6**

**F#7**

**Bm**

Give me Christ or give me Hiroshima

**Em**

Destroy another fetus now, we don t like children anyhow

**A6**

**F#7**

**Bm**

I ve seen the future, baby: it is murder.

[Chorus]

**Em**

**D**

Things are gonna slide (slide) in all directions

**Em**

**D**

Won t be nothing (won t be) nothing you can t measure anymore.

**Em**

**G**

The blizzard, the blizzard of the world has crossed the threshold

**Gm**

**D**

and it has overturned the order of the soul

**A**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

**Bm**

I wonder what they meant

**A**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

**Bm**

I wonder what they meant

**A**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

**Bm**

I wonder what they meant

**A**

**Bm**

When they said (they said) REPENT (repent) REPENT (repent)

(end on **Bm**)

Chords:

EADGBE

**Bm**: X02210

**D**: X32010

**Em**: XX0231

**F#7**: 030100

**G**: 133211

**Gm**: 133111

**G7**: 131211

**A**: 320003

**A6**: 320000