

# THE SOUND OF SILENCE – Paul Simon

Hello darkness, my old friend. I've come to talk with you again.  
Because a vision softly creeping left its seeds while I was sleeping.  
And the vision that was planted in my brain still remains within the sound of  
silence.

In restless dreams I walked alone - narrow streets of cobblestone.  
Neath the halo of a street lamp I turned my collar to the cold and damp.  
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light that split the night  
and touched the sound of silence.

And in the naked light I saw ten thousand people, maybe more.  
People talking without speaking, people hearing without listening,  
People writing songs that voices never share, and no one dare disturb the  
sound of silence.

Fools, said I, you do not know, silence like a cancer grows.  
Hear my words that I might teach you. Take my arms that I might reach  
you. But my words like silent raindrops fell and echoed in the wells of  
silence.

And the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they made.  
And the sign flashed out its warning in the words that it was forming.  
And the sign said the words of the prophets are written on the subway walls  
and tenement halls and whispered in the sounds of silence.

Per Wikipedia: Generally considered a classic folk-rock song, in 2012 The Sound of Silence was added to the National Recording Registry in the Library of Congress for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically important." Written by Paul Simon over a period of several months in 1963 and 1964, a studio audition led to the duo signing a record deal with Columbia Records. The initial album was a commercial failure, but in the spring of 1965 the song began to attract airplay at radio stations in Boston. The song was remixed and hit No.1 on the Billboard Hot 100 for the week ending January 1, 1966.