

The Rest of the Story

Now that you have heard “Mama’s Voice, Through the Years” here is the rest of the story. The song has four life-divisions; Childhood, Youth, Adulthood, and Old Age. The life-division parts all start with “Through the Years”, followed by a spoken part.

I believe this song was given to me not as a final song, but as a song for others to use to create their own life-division stories. I believe this because one of the nights in Taos, the lyrics below came to me. I knew they weren’t to be part of the song, but I think they were showing me another side of the song.

“Through the Years” my mama never loved me
“Through the Years” my mama preferred crack and cocaine
“Through the Years” my mama didn’t care if I went to school or what I did
“Through the Years” so I hung out on the streets, where I felt at home
“Through the Years’ the whole family thought I was worthless, I didn’t disappoint
“Through the Years” drugs were easy to get and they numbed my pain
“Through the Years” guns were as easy too and made me feel like a man
“Through the Years” I shot a man, to stoned to remember why
“Through the Years” I’m doing life without parole, what chance did I have

As originally written each the life-divisions had multiple “Through the Years”, like above. For the final song, the life-divisions were reduced to 3 so the song wouldn’t be 20 minutes long.

As you might imagine, this life-division could be about many children in our society. How could anyone knowing this story, judge this child in the same manner as they would a child growing up in a more idyllic home environment?

What if we can find a way to allow other people to create their stories using this song? And more importantly, allow others to hear their stories, maybe there would be more compassion and less judgment.

The other important part is how the song ends for everyone’s story, Jesus loves them and that we are all sinners, but Jesus can forgive them. I think people need to believe in something greater than themselves and I think everyone needs hope. I see this as a song for everyone who has been disenfranchised, or is different in some way, or has been abused, or never had a chance in life, or made a bad decision in life, ... So many different stories to share.