

Sins of Omission

(Animals in Alleyways)

Background: How do we solve the “problem” of homelessness when we view our fellow man as sub-human, dirty animals, criminals, addicts, or just plain crazy, and then blame them for their condition, see them with fear, judge them with resentment, assume the stereotype and that they deserve their fate, exaggerate their overall impact, and expect them to recover on their own? People consider them a problem that needs to be swept away, or could be somehow, or that they are at fault and need to help themselves out of it, which is frequently impossible. When did we lose our empathy. Did we ever even have it in the first place?

Written: 2024

Arr.	Key	Time	Tuning	Tempo	Style	Capo
1	Em	4/4	Standard	135	Folk	None

Arrangement	1
Intro	Em G D D x2
Verse	Em G D D x2 C C D D G Em C C D
Pre-chorus	Am C G D
Chorus	Em G D x3 C D Em
Bridge	Am G D C x2

Chords Used in this Song

Em	G	D	C	Am

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Verse

I don't mean to be a hypocrite
I'm as guilty as everyone else
This ain't a self-righteous pulpit
Or the double standard well
We only view it as a problem
When it's in our line of sight
But if out of sight then out of mind
And we're oblivious and blind

Verse

We see them as animals
Sub-human creatures to avoid
Even though we don't know them
Or how their lives became devoid
Like animals in alleyways
That's how they are seen
Be honest that's how you see them
We all do and it's obscene
We see them as...

Pre-chorus

Mentally unstable
Dirty and disheveled
Addicted and disabled
Dangerous and unlevel
We see them as...

Chorus

Animals in alleyways
Treat with suspicion
Animals in alleyways
View with derision
Animals in alleyways
An inhuman condition
They aren't animals in alleyways
They are our sins of omission

Verse

We only see a problem
When they invade our space
We see a nuisance and a threat
Then we quicken our pace
But when pushed across town
Under a bridge we cannot see
They're swept under the rug
May as well be swept out to sea

Verse

We're afraid of them
But can't really say why
We don't really know them
But we believe the stereotype
But each was once a child
A kid with hopes and dreams
A picture in a yearbook with
No plans to end up on the street
Now they...

Pre-chorus

Defecate behind dumpsters
Urinate in alleyways
Scrounge for food in trash cans
Sleep under freeways
We see them as...

Chorus

Animals in alleyways
Treat with suspicion
Animals in alleyways
View with derision
Animals in alleyways
An inhuman condition
They aren't animals in alleyways
They are our sins of omission

Bridge

They are a drain you say
But are they really now?
They're not on welfare or Medicaid
They take no benefits at all
Not on unemployment
Barely use the soup kitchens
Less a burden than politicians
That teach us to ignore them

Verse

When did we lose our empathy
Did we ever have any at all
Seems we've lost our conscience
Our morality has taken a fall
We are complicit when we think
Of our fellow man so low
Next time you see one think
There but for the grace of God I go
Because...

Chorus

Our brothers are in alleyways
Beaten into submission
Our sisters are in alleyways
Fighting a war of attrition
Our children are in alleyways
Living an unfair perdition
They aren't animals in alleyways
They are our sins of omission
We should be ashamed
We are in need of contrition
They aren't animals in alleyways
They are our sins of omission

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<p>Verse: Em G D D x2 C C D D G Em C C D</p>	<p>Pre-chorus: Am C G D Chorus: Em G D x3 C D Em</p>	<p>Bridge: Am G D C x2</p>
<p>Verse I don't mean to be a hypocrite I'm as guilty as everyone else This ain't a self-righteous pulpit Or the double standard well We only view it as a problem When it's in our line of sight But if out of sight then out of mind And we're oblivious and blind</p>	<p>Verse We only see a problem When they invade our space We see a nuisance and a threat Then we quicken our pace But when pushed across town Under a bridge we cannot see They're swept under the rug May as well be swept out to sea</p>	<p>Bridge They are a drain you say But are they really now? They're not on welfare or Medicaid They take no benefits at all Not on unemployment Barely use the soup kitchens Less a burden than politicians That teach us to ignore them</p>
<p>Verse We see them as animals Sub-human creatures to avoid Even though we don't know them Or how their lives became devoid Like animals in alleyways That's how they are seen Be honest that's how you see them We all do and it's obscene We see them as...</p>	<p>Verse We're afraid of them But can't really say why We don't really know them But we believe the stereotype But each was once a child A kid with hopes and dreams A picture in a yearbook with No plans to end up on the street Now they...</p>	<p>Verse When did we lose our empathy Did we ever have any at all Seems we've lost our conscience Our morality has taken a fall We are complicit when we think Of our fellow man so low Next time you see one think There but for the grace of God I go Because...</p>
<p>Pre-chorus Mentally unstable Dirty and disheveled Addicted and disabled Dangerous and unlevel We see them as...</p>	<p>Pre-chorus Defecate behind dumpsters Urinate in alleyways Scrounge for food in trash cans Sleep under freeways We see them as...</p>	<p>Chorus Our brothers are in alleyways Beaten into submission Our sisters are in alleyways Fighting a war of attrition Our children are in alleyways Living an unfair perdition They aren't animals in alleyways They are our sins of omission We should be ashamed We are in need of contrition They aren't animals in alleyways They are our sins of omission</p>
<p>Chorus Animals in alleyways Treat with suspicion Animals in alleyways View with derision Animals in alleyways An inhuman condition They aren't animals in alleyways They are our sins of omission</p>	<p>Chorus</p>	