

DEDICATIONS

Dedicated to the soul fixer and joy giver, Dimitris Ioannou, the heart and soul of the fabulous hellenic blues band from Athens, "The Blues Cargo".

and to

Elias Zaikos, the undisputable godfather and great master of the Hellenic blues scene and the leader of the legendary band from Thessaloniki, "The Blues Wire".

May you both live to play the blues until the end of time.

April 2013

Also dedicated to my dear son "Evangelos" and my beloved daughter "Dimitra".

May you never stop chasing rainbows!

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Blues Lyrics by Dimitris Epikouris



***Broken hearted or just broke? I just can't remember.
It happens quite often so the song below reflects a
rather chronic condition.***

1. BABY I'M IN TATTERS

Baby I'm in tatters
Dealing with trouble all the time
Baby I'm in tatters
This blues, I tell ya, is all mine.

Chorus

Living ain't easy
In this heartbreaking world
Lovin' ain't easy
Soon I'll say goodbye to you all

Baby I'm in tatters
Nobody seems to understand
Baby I'm in tatters
I'm a deeply lonely man

Walking down the highway
can hear the beat of my heart
baby just turn around and leave me

'cause we are worlds apart.

Baby I'm in tatters
Singing the blues night and day
Baby I'm in tatters
The blues seems to be the only way.



Past and present life differences but we should take them as they come. Tremendous and totally unexpected changes but that's the way it is.

2. FRIED BEANS AND RICE

Once I was a rich man
with limos, mansions and maids
But a devil-like woman
has put me in a maze.

Once I had for breakfast
Champagne and caviar
But now I've got nothing
But an old junkyard car.

Chorus

Now I'm hungry and lonely
Living' on fried beans and rice
Long gone are the days
I had steaks every night.

When I first met her
Thought it was paradise
I had no idea
That she was using crooked dice.

Love my hometown but not its people since most of them are uncouth savages. Oh, I hate hillbilly mentality so much!

3. IF IT AIN'T EGALEO. IT WON'T DO

I Spent time travelling
And wandering around
But a place like Egaleo
Was nowhere to be found.

I've been to Chicago
Where cold wind always blows
I spent time in New York City
Where everything shines and glows

Chorus

But if it ain't Egaleo, It won't do
No other place feels like home
If it ain't Egaleo, It won't do
That's the place I like to roam.

I spent time in San Francisco
Where the lights are so bright
I fell in love with Montana
Where the mountains kiss the sky.

But if it ain't Egaleo, It won't do
No other place feels likes home
If it ain't Egaleo, It won't do
that's the place I like to roam.



***Got no religion, no god, no nothing. I wrote a song
just to say to everybody that I don't wanna be
"saved". I've met enough "saviors" in my life and
they all stink!***

4. CLOUD No 11

You punished and tortured my soul
You trapped it in a shiny fish bowl
You made me scream and cry
And I still wonder why

Chorus

Who told you I wanna be a saint?
Who told you I can stand your complaints?
Who told you I wanna go to heaven?
I just wanna get to cloud number 11

You sent me nightmares and pain
All my begging went down the drain
You promised that you will free my soul
But you still keep it trapped
in that nasty fish bowl.

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Do me a favor and hit the road now
You will never know what love is all about
Nothing of what you feel is real
It's just spinning around time's wheel.



BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

***Well, I've met some folks who think they are gifted
musicians (they are not) who wondered why I dig the
blues since I don't know how to strum a guitar.
Dedicated to them.***

5. TOUTING THE BLUES

Don't know how to read music
Or much about guitar
I know little about singing
Don't even know how to jam (shouting is my best part)

Don't know to handle a mic
How to strum some simple chords
I know nothing about stardom
I never looked for awards

Chorus

But I dig the blues so bad
And I feel it deep down inside
So I'll be touting the blues baby
till the day I die.

Don't know bridges or pickups
strings, pots and jacks
I don't know what a tuner is
a damn thing about racks.

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

But I dig the blues so bad
And I feel it deep down inside
So I'll be touting the blues baby
till the day I die.



Many people have knocked on my door but I'm determined to keep it closed. I got my kids, some dear friends and that's all. I just can't stand plastic people and their plastic & pretentious ways.

6. DON'T KNOCK ON MY DOOR

Don't knock on my door pretty baby
I no longer stay here
Don't knock on my door pretty baby
I've moved away from here.

You can't find me pretty baby
Nobody knows where I stay
You can't find me pretty baby
So I won't listen to what you say.

Chorus

Don't knock on my door pretty baby
You won't see me crying again
Don't knock on my door pretty baby
Go ahead and find another foolish man.

You can't find me pretty baby
Nobody knows where I stay
You can't find me pretty baby
So I won't listen to what you say.

***Life can be wonderful depending on where you live
and how much money you make. Living in this rotten
place, surely ain't easy.***

7. LIFE AIN'T EASY

Life ain't easy
If you are born on the wrong side of the road
Life ain't easy
when hardships rock your boat.

Chorus

Life ain't easy
When you sing the blues
Life ain't easy
If the hard way is what you choose.

Life ain't easy
If you no longer dream
Life ain't easy
If your baby is cold and mean.

Life ain't easy
If you're a runaway
Life ain't easy
If you have too much to say.

I've met many people that initially seemed nice but they were proven to be a bunch of assholes in the end. Dedicated to them.

8. CAUGHT A BIG FISH

Caught a big fish
And gave it your name
I've caught a big fish
But I threw it back again.

I've caught a big fish
With a long silver tail
Sharp teeth and gloomy eyes
Straight out of a fairy tale.

Chorus

Caught a big fish
Too heavy for my line
Caught a big fish
That could never be mine.

Caught a big fish
That had an ugly look
Caught a big fish
That broke my hook

This is exactly what life is all about. Sometimes, a coin someone flips, determines how you're gonna live your life. There are times that you think that everything is under control, your control. However, this is not always the case.

9. FLIP THE COIN

Go ahead and flip the coin
'Cause you've got an army to join
An army of wild beasts and fools
wicked men and plenty of ghouls.

Chorus

Go ahead and start the game
Isn't this your final aim?
Go ahead and poke my heart
After all, we're worlds apart.

Go ahead and start the torture
Somehow I knew that you are a vulture
Feeding on rotten filthy meat
with a heart made of concrete.

Go ahead and start the game
Isn't this your final aim?
Go ahead and poke my heart
It will better if we part.

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

One thing that you surely learn in this country is to wait in line! It's our national sport. Thousands of work hours down the drain!

10. AT THE POST OFFICE

I've been waiting for your letter
But it doesn't seem to come
If it does, I will feel better
But the problem is your mom.

Chorus

I've been waiting for your letter
But I am afraid it's in vain.
Every time I think of you,
my heart is in pain.

She won't let you come to me
And fall straight into my arms
Oh that woman is so mean
She enjoys causing harm.

I've been waiting for your letter
But I am afraid it's in vain.
Every time I think of you,
my poor heart is in pain.

An easy goin', low key, kind of life is what I've been trying to live since I'm not ambitious and vainglorious.

11. DON'T ROCK THE BOAT

You ain't the captain of my life
Just look after yourself
'Cause I know how to row my boat
and don't need somebody else.

Chorus

Don't rock the boat pretty baby
The sea is tough and mean
Don't rock the boat pretty baby
Don't send me where I've been

The sea is stormy, little baby
and you don't know how to swim
The sea is stormy pretty baby
You don't have to be so mean.

The wind is blowing pretty baby
and the waves are big and high
The wind is blowing pretty baby
and the waves are big and high
You gotta hold my hand, little darling
we will get ashore in a while.

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Everything we think we own is not really ours. Some people had known that before the government did. I was one of them.

12. PAWN SHOP LOVE AFFAIR

You told me that you found
somebody else to love,
So I've been drifting around
and the sky is crying above.

Chorus

Oh baby, I do love you, I swear
but you seem to think of me
as a pawnshop love affair.

Your heart's door is locked for me
No matter how much I try
And all this time, you've been lying to me
I guess it's time to say goodbye.

Oh baby, I do love you, I swear
but you seem to think of me
as a pawnshop love affair.

I don't like alcohol but in this country no matter how much you drink, you're always drunk which is the best way to forget the government's castration. It won't take long before we become a country of eunuchs!

13. WHISKY FOUNTAIN

Can't climb the ladder of your love
'cause no longer feel your arms around me
Can't climb the ladder of your love
Cause you ain't walking beside me.

When it gets dark
I climb the usual barstool mountain
Ain't gonna rise with the lark
Cause I'm headed towards the whiskey fountain.

Chorus

Can't climb the ladder of your love
'cause I won't be here tomorrow
Can't climb the ladder of your love
just let me be buried in my sorrow.

When it gets dark
I climb the usual barstool mountain
Ain't gonna rise with the lark
Cause I'm headed towards the whiskey fountain.

Met some of them. Not the best memories.

14. PIG WOMAN BLUES

You made me sell my house
Get rid of my guitar
You took my possessions
You even stole my car.

Chorus

Baby, you ain't nothing but a pig
So you may hit the road
Cause your mistake was big.

You sold my pots and plates
and all my silverware
You kicked my dog twice
You never really care

Oh baby, you are nothing but a pig
I got tired of your moaning
So stop talking like a prig. (κῆνσορας)

You took all my money
You even emptied the fridge
You just ain't no funny bunny
But a real, smelly pig.

One of my worst everyday fears is when I open the letterbox. I hate getting bills and I hate even more having to pay them!

15. THE LETTERBOX BLUES

I wake up every morning
and I ride to work
With only one thing on my head
What I'll find in the letter box.

I turn the letter box key right
and then I turn it left
There is no letter from you, baby
but so many bills instead.

Bills for electricity
The water and the telephone,
bills from the revenue service
Oh, no, all my money is gone!

Bills for my insurance
And for my credit cards
Bills from my accountant
My life is so damn hard.

Got tired of paying
The banks and the IRS*
Can't hold out much longer baby,
My whole life is in a mess.

(*IRS: Internal Revenue Service - η Εφορία στις ΗΠΑ)



Well, that's about a guy who thinks that he is the most intelligent and the most handsome man all over the world. I call him "dry-lander" because he comes from the country's dry-lands! He is "dry" too!

16. Drylander's Blues

Baby, I'm a drylander,
What sort of creature, you may wonder,
I can be nasty and mean,
and a money counting machine.

Chorus

I love moaning and groaning,
And I will always complain,
Good times won't be rolling,
Cause I'll bust your balls,
and you'll feel the pain.

Baby, I'm a drylander,
I talk, and here comes thunder,
I won't help if I don't gain,
I always find somebody else to blame.

Chorus

Baby, I'm a drylander,
What sort of creature, you may wonder,

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I won't help you if you fall,
If you got worries, just don't give me a call
I've got the voice of a frog,
And I look like the ass of a bear,
I'm a miserable corporate cog,
And I see everything square.

"Don't mess around with the bread of my kids" I meant to say.

17. STOP MESSING AROUND WITH MY BREAD.

Hey, hey, politicians,
Stop messing around with my bread
Hey, hey, politicians,
Stop messing around with my bread
I've got my kids to feed, you know
and I can hardly hold my head.

Hey, hey, you lazy rascals
Stop messing around with my bread
Hey, hey, you lazy rascals
Stop messing around with my bread
I've been working night and day
and I feel I'm already dead.

Chorus

I am tired of your lazy yawning
And your blood suckin' ways
There is no sunlight in the morning
but just a dark and evil maze.

Hey, hey, you politicians

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Stop messing around with my bread
Hey, hey, you politicians
Stop messing around with my bread
You took everything I owned
You haven't even left my bed.



My answer to life's temptations!

18. FANNIE MAE's CHEESE BLUES

Fannie Mae called last night
And said she got some tasty cheese
She told me to come by her place
and eat as much as I please.

Chorus

"Honey, I've got so much cholesterol"
If I eat some of your cheese, darling
My body will start to rock and roll."

She said: "You better come right away
and get some of my tasty cheese.
There are one hundred men around
Who will eat it with ease."

And I said: "Your Cheese is very fattening
It'll give me a stomach ache
If I eat some of your cheese honey,
I'll make a terrible mistake".

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Chorus

"Honey, I've got so much cholesterol"
If I eat some of your cheese, darling
My body will start to rock and roll".



Well, everybody one way or another has the blues as Albert King used to say!

19. CHEATING BLUES

Hey, hey conductor,
please hold that southbound train,
Hey, hey conductor,
please hold that southbound train,
My baby just left me
and I am all alone again.

Chorus

It was that evil whisky
that made me lose my mind,
Yeah, it was that evil whisky
that made me lose my mind,
I slept with another woman
whose good looks got me blind.

Hey, hey conductor,
I wanna board this old train
Hey, hey conductor,
I wanna board this old train
I was so unkind to my baby
She doesn't wanna see me again.

An attempt to describe the consequences of a financial (and cultural) crisis.

20. AND HERE COMES THUNDER

Scarlet dreams, violent scenes,
Empty hearts, people running fast.
Culprit smiles, unspoken eyes
fed with misery, destined to last.

Stains of blood, raindrops of steel
kids that are mourning at their fortune's wheel.
A plastic doll with a deranged face
Hey, any news from the human race?

Chorus

....and here comes thunder
in case you wondered.
and here comes thunder in case you wondered.
There is no place to hide
when our worlds collide.

People are fainting at every square
I'm still wondering if you were there
to see me crawling on my life's filthy ground

looking for sincerity
that I still haven't found.

A weird melody comes from an old guitar,
Hey Mr. Bluesman, I just can't see that far.

Don't show me the river
cause I don't know how to swim
Got myself lost in the Delta's
hot southern wind.

I've got to smile like a joker
in my life's game of poker
I assure you I'm gonna try as much as I can.

Don't cry mama,
I ain't no doctor but just a simple man.

Don't cry mama, your son ain't no doctor
with a silver limousine
but he dresses like one
during the Halloween.

Don't cry mama, I ain't no doctor
but just a simple man.

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

A simple medicine man.

A simple medicine man.

A simple medicine man.

A simple medicine man.

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

We've got so many "full of shit" people in this country! Phony and stupid most of them but they don't seem to know it. I have always believed that stupidity is the most dangerous social disease.

21. Mr. "Know it all" Blues

You said that you are clever
With a high IQ
But all I see is somebody
whose life hangs askew.

You said you know everything
And that you are full of knowledge
You said you were in the top rank
when you were in college.

Chorus

Hey man, why don't you get a real life?
Do you really need that hatred?
as much as the butcher needs a knife?

You said you know women
Like the back of your hand
But I see nobody around you
You're a deeply lonely man.
You said you need no friends
to stand by your side
all you do is to offend

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

everybody in your life.

That's how business is done in this land!

22. Filthy Place Blues

Hey Mr. Taxman,
Got a good bribe today?
Hey Mr. Taxman,
Got a good bribe today?
I've got no money to bribe you
And I know I'll go to jail.

Hey Mr. Urban planner,
Got a good bribe today?
Hey Mr. Urban planner,
Got a good bribe today?
I saw your limo parked outside
So I guess everything is OK.

Hey Mr. public servant,
How was your payola today?
Hey Mr. public servant,
How was your payola today?
I passed by your mansion yesterday
You've got a very nice chalet.

Hey Mr. Minister,
How was your day today?

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BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Hey Mr. Minister,
How was your day today?
Got yourself a nice kickback
Or it is still on the way?

Chorus

I'm tired of living
In such a filthy place
Everybody is so corrupted
Everything is so interlaced.

I never had a certain destination. I guess I was born a drifter, roaming from place to place, meeting people and recording their emotions.

23.No Destination Blues

I hate to be lonely and I hate to be sad
I hate to be lonely and I hate to be sad
and some friends that I found
they wanna do me bad.

Oh, I'm so lonely
And on an empty road I walk
Oh, I'm so lonely
And on an empty road I walk
Nobody is around
Nobody wants to talk.

Chorus

I'm gonna walk at night
And try to croon a tune,
I says, I'm gonna walk at night
And try to croon a tune,
The stars will be out of sight

So will be the moon.

Oh baby my blues are rolling
like a train down the tracks
Oh baby my blues are rolling
like a train down the tracks
singing about my misery
'cause my life is full of cracks.

Kids are like little sparrows. They fly aimlessly and they are full of innocence and ignorance about life's low down aching chills.

24. Little Sparrow Blues

Hey little sparrow,
How come you don't fly today
Hey little sparrow,
How come you don't fly today
I see wounds in your feathers
It seems that you had
a really nasty day.

"I come from a battlefield,
a shipwreck and a graveyard
I saw so many bodies
laying around charred (καρβουνιασμένος).

Life is nothing
But a lousy little joke
But it can be so hard
when you are poor and broke.

Hey little sparrow
Just tell me what else you saw

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BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Hey little sparrow
Just tell me what else you saw

" I saw some children
That looked like ghosts
Oh yeah I saw some children
walking around like ghosts
their eyes were gloomy
their bodies covered with frost

CHORUS

"I saw blood flowing
like the Mississippi river
I saw blood flowing
like the Mississippi river
I saw pain and sorrow
I saw people shiver."

I saw sea waves
swallowing innocent souls
I saw grey bombers
opening huge holes."

A child growing without a dad is one of the worst things in life, especially if the child is a boy. Dads are their children's best friends, I believe. Dedicated to the people who committed suicide due to the unbearable financial crisis.

25. Fatherless Child

Hey little boy,
tears are rolling down your eyes
Hey little boy,
tears are rolling down your eyes
Have you lost your toys
or got in a fight with the guys?

" I can't find my daddy
He ain't sleeping in his bed
Mom said he went away
But I believe he's dead.

Daddy was worried
He had so many bills to pay
I saw him once crying
He felt so much betrayed.

He had to pay crazy taxes

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

And bills to many banks
He said that life is better
in concentration camps.

My whole country is in ruins
And homes are taken away
Hunger is at our doorsteps
And misery is on the way.

It's the filthy politicians
That took away my dad
Now I have no daddy
And I feel so sad."



BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Why do people drink? Does somebody have an idea?

26. Drinking Blues

You asked me why I drink
So much whisky and gin
It's because of you, mama
It's because you are so mean

You tell me not to smoke
Because I'm gonna die
But you took all my money
And you left me high and dry

You tell me not to go
to that old juke joint
you tell me not gamble
and be a good little boy

You're a cold mistreating mama
With no love in your heart
You're a cold mistreating mama
With no love in your heart
So don't start me talking
Cause I don't know where to start.

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Only bankers like bankers! Oh, and the rich folks too!

27.The dead banker's blues

I got busted last night
for killing a banker
Oh baby I got busted last night
For shooting a banker
I have no regrets little darling
Cause I got rid of a canker (μάστιγα, καρκίνωμα)

CHORUS

Bankers are loansharks baby
With a heart made of stone
I believe bankers are loansharks baby
With hearts made of stone
They take everything you've got
And never hear you moan

That fat and smelly banker
Took away my shack
that fat and smelly banker
Took away my shack
I felt so good my baby
When I gave him a whack (χτύπημα).

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Now I'm behind bars baby
But I couldn't care less
Cause I did the right thing baby
And my soul is blessed.



BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

***In my country we are proud of our politicians.
They are the filthiest and the most corrupted
ones.***

28. Trust no politicians

Oh baby, you know I'm bad bent
Don't know who to blame
Baby, I'm bad bent
I guess I'll blame the president.

The politicians doublecrossed me
And fed me with lies
I was a fool to believe
all those devils in disguise

CHORUS

Don't ever trust politicians
Parliament members of any kind
Those guys are magicians
and will rob you blind

I have lost my business
And have nothing left
I walk the streets alone
And sleep on a broken bed

Grim Reaper is a friend of mine but we have never met. We will never meet I guess because as long as I'm here, Green Reaper will never come. When he comes, I'll be gone so we will never meet.

29. Grim Reaper's Blues

I lay awake at night and hear
the bells toll
Something in this life ain't right
So baby, It's time to roll

Hey Grim Reaper
Won't you join me for a drink
Hey Grim Reaper
Won't you join me for a drink
We ain't going nowhere
Until I find the missing link

CHORUS

In heaven they don't want me
'cause I ain't a good man
In hell they don't want me
'cause I ain't no devil's friend

I guess I'll never die
And will be strolling around like a ghost

I guess I'll never die
And will be strolling around like a ghost
I'll be walking on the mountains
And travelling from coast to coast

Hey Grim Reaper I think I paid my dues Just take me
out of here to any place you choose

Hey Grim Reaper
pour yourself some moonshine
Hey, Grim Reaper
Why don't you pour yourself some moonshine
If you just taste it
You will see it's divine.

Grim Reaper: Ο θάνατος στη γλώσσα του
Αμερικάνικου Νότου.

BLUES LYRICS by Dimitris Epikouris

Being hungry is pretty bad but being unable to feed your kids is perhaps the worst nightmare a parent can have.

30. Hunger's Blues

Hey, baby, is there anything to eat?
Hey, hey baby, is there anything to eat
I'm pretty hungry little darling
I crave the taste of meat.

The fridge is empty baby
And there is no bread around
All I've got is some flour
No other food can be found

Hey darling, I'm gonna get us some nice meat
Hey darling, I'm gonna get us some nice meat
I'm gonna steal the neighbor's rooster
and give the kids something to eat.

I'm gonna go to the lake
And catch myself a big catfish
I says I'm gonna go to the lake
And catch myself a big catfish
And I'll bring it over to you, mamma
So we can all have a feast.