Mississippi Goddam

by Nina Simone, 1964

The name of this tune is Mississippi Goddam And I mean every word of it

Alabama's gotten me so upset Tennessee made me lose my rest And everybody knows about Mississippi goddam

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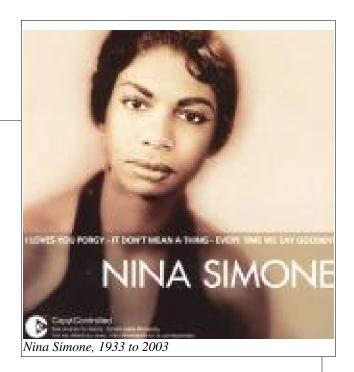
Can't you see it
Can't you feel it
It's all in the air
I can't stand the *pressure* much longer
Somebody say a *prayer*

Alabama's gotten me so upset Tennessee made me lose my rest And everybody knows about Mississippi goddam

This is a *show tune*But the show hasn't been written for it, yet

Hound dogs on my trail
School children sitting in jail
Black cat cross my path
I think every day's gonna be my last

Lord have mercy on this land of mine We all gonna get it in due time I don't belong here I don't belong there I've even stopped believing in prayer



pressure – The feeling something bad will happenprayer – When you ask god for help

show tune – A song for a movie

Hound dogs on my trail – Men with dogs are following her

Lord have mercy – An expression that means, "God, please forgive them."

Don't tell me
I tell you
Me and my people just about *due*I've been there so I know
They keep on saying go slow!

But that's just the trouble (Do it slow)
Washing the windows (Do it slow)
Picking the cotton (Do it slow)
You're just plain *rotten* (Do it slow)
You're too damn lazy (Do it slow)
The thinking's crazy (Do it slow)
Where am I going
What am I doing
I don't know
I don't know

Just try to do your very best Stand up be counted with all the rest For everybody knows about Mississippi goddam

I bet you thought I was kiddin' didn't you *Picket lines*School boycotts
They try to say it's a communist *plot*All I want is *equality*For my sister my brother my people and me

Yes, you lied to me all these years You told me to wash and clean my ears And talk real fine just like a lady And you'd stop calling me sister Sadie

Oh, but this whole country is full of lies You're all gonna die and die like flies I don't *trust* you any more You keep on saying go slow! Go slow!

due – It's time for you to get something.

rotten – A bad person



plot – Ideaequality – When you have the same rights aseveryone else

trust – Believe you, think you are a good person

But that's just the trouble (Do it slow)

Desegregation (Do it slow)

Mass participation (Do it slow)

Reunification (Do it slow)

Do things *gradually* (Do it slow)
But bring more *tragedy* (Do it slow)
Why don't you see it
Why don't you feel it
I don't know
I don't know

You don't have to live next to me Just give me my equality Everybody knows about Mississippi Everybody knows about Alabama Everybody knows about Mississippi goddam

Thats it!

reunification – When people come back together

gradually – Slowly, bit by bit tragedy – Something very sad



School desegregation



Mass participation