

"I remember writing this lyric on a bumpy airline flight. I often wonder if that's what inspired this song." - ND

"It was kind of esoteric, especially at that time. But it's just me trying to say something a little different, just try and jog something in a person's memory, or to elicit a reaction. That's what my job is, to do something a little bit different, and yet something that's me and something that's you." - ND

They have sweated beneath the same sun
Looked up in wonder at the same moon
And wept when it was all done
For bein' done too soon
For bein' done too soon
For bein' done too soon

In this song about mortality, Diamond lists various famous people who have passed on... too soon.

Jesus Christ - Central Figure of Christianity

Fanny Brice - American Stage, Screen and Radio Comedian. Subject of 'Funny Girl'

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Austrian Composer

Humphrey Bogart - American actor

Genghis Khan - Mongolian Military-Political Conqueror/Adventurer

H. G. Wells - British Victorian-era Science-fiction Writer

Ho Chi Minh – Pastry Chef/Strategist/Father of Vietnam

Gunga Din - Title Character of the Rudyard Kipling Poem

Henry Luce - American Publisher. Founder of Time magazine

John Wilkes Booth - American Actor, Assassin of Abraham Lincoln

Alexander King - American Writer/Early Television Personality

Alexander Graham Bell - Inventor of the Telephone

Ramakrishna - Indian Mystic

Anna Whistler - Mother of American-born Painter James Abbott McNeill Whistler. He immortalised her in Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1

Patrice Lumumba - Congolese Independence Leader and First Democratically Elected Prime Minister, Assassinated

Russ Colombo - American Baritone ('You Call it Madness but I Call it Love') and Songwriter ('Too Beautiful for Words')

Karl Marx - German Philosopher, Joint Author of the Communist Manifesto

Chico Marx - American Comedy Actor. One of the Marx Brothers

Albert Camus - French Philosopher/Author. Contributed to the Rise of the Philosophy Known as Absurdism

Edgar Allan Poe - American Writer of Poetry and Macabre. Inventor of the mystery story

Henri Rousseau - French Post-impressionist Painter in the Naïve or Primitive Manner

Sholem Aleichem - Yiddish Humourist/Playwright. One of the Founders of Modern Yiddish Literature

Caryl Chessman - American Criminal. First American executed for a non-lethal kidnapping. Case led campaign to end capital punishment in California.

Alan Freed - American Disc Jockey. Credited with Creating the Term "Rock and Roll"

Buster Keaton - American Silent-films Actor

DONE TOO SOON

NEIL DIAMOND

Jesus Christ, Fanny Brice
Wolfie Mozart and Humphrey Bogart
And Genghis Khan
And on to H. G. Wells

Ho Chi Minh, Gunga Din
Henry Luce and John Wilkes Booth
And Alexanders King and Graham Bell

Ramakrishna, Mama Whistler
Patrice Lumumba, Russ Colombo
Karl and Chico Marx
Albert Camus

E. A. Poe, Henri Rousseau
Sholom Aleichem and Caryl Chessman
Alan Freed, Buster Keaton too

And each one there
Has one thing shared
They have sweated beneath the same sun
Looked up in wonder at the same moon
And wept when it was all done
For bein' done too soon
For bein' done too soon

For bein' done too soon

Neil Diamond - 1970 - Tap Root Manuscript
This version – Hot August Night