



# GOODBYE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Elton John - Bernie Taupin

ELTON JOHN

1973

MCA Records #40148

Music by Elton John. Words by Bernie Taupin.

The second single from the album **GOODBYE YELLOW BRICK ROAD**. Chart: #2.  
Time - 3:11. Flip Side: "Screw You". Released in U.S.A. October 15, 1973.

Recorded at Chateau d'H rouville, H rouville, France. Produced by **Gus Dudgeon**.  
Engineered by **David Hentschel**.

Inspired by one of the most famous movies of all time, especially pre-war, The Wizard of Oz. Dorothy and friends head out looking for the wizard, so he can help her get home. They follow the yellow brick road. They finally get to Emerald City to see the wizard, but find that he is only a man, and cannot help them. In the end, she learns she just needs to click her heels....and believe. It was the first film that lyricist Bernie Taupin watched in his life. This brought out Bernie's desire to leave the hectic life that fame brings and go back to the simple life of home. At least part way there. -- Larry--



## *Bernie Taupin*

*"There was a period when I was going through that whole "got to get back to my roots" thing, which spawned a lot of like minded songs in the early days, this being one of them. I don't believe I was ever turning my back on success or saying I didn't want it.. I don't believe I was ever that naive. I think I was just hoping that maybe there was a happy medium way to exist successfully in a more tranquil setting.*

*My only naiveté, I guess, was believing I could do it so early on. I had to travel a long road and visit the school of hard knocks before I could come even close to achieving that goal. So, thank God I can say quite categorically that I am home."*

## *Bernie Taupin*

*"I don't think it was about disillusionment [with] fame. I think it was more about this battle I had about being the sort of country kid coming to town. Being originally a little out of my depth, it was sort of the Dick Whittington tale. You know, the country kid going to the big city. But at the same time, yes, I think it could have been the all-encompassing world of fame... It could be rock & roll. Is it everything it's cracked up to be? Possibly not.*

## *Gus Dudgeon - Classic Albums documentary*

*"One of the secrets in his piano playing was his ability to think (about) where the vocal was going to lay against the track and then put in certain piano lines which would link the lines together vocally. The vocal sounds like it's sped up. I don't know why he did it; he just went out and sang in a sort of sped-up voice. A lot of people have asked me if I sped the tape up, but in fact it's not sped-up, it's just the weird way that he decided to do it. That's Elton."*

## Personnel

**Elton John** - lead vocals, piano  
**Davey Johnstone** - Leslie electric guitar, backing vocals  
**Dee Murray** - bass, backing vocals  
**Nigel Olsson** - drums, backing vocals  
**Del Newman** - orchestral arrangement

*YouTube STUDIO TRACK w/LYRICS*

*YouTube LIVE, 1973, Top of the Pops*

*YouTube LIVE, Independence Square, 2012, Kiev, Ukraine*

When are you gonna come down  
When are you going to land  
I should have stayed on the farm  
I should have listened to my old man

You know you can't hold me forever  
I didn't sign up with you  
I'm not a present for your friends to open  
This boy's too young to be singing the blues

So goodbye yellow brick road  
Where the dogs of society howl  
You can't plant me in your penthouse  
I'm going back to my plough

Back to the howling old owl in the woods  
Hunting the horny back toad  
Oh I've finally decided my future lies  
Beyond the yellow brick road

What do you think you'll do then  
I bet that'll shoot down your plane  
It'll take you a couple of vodka and tonics  
To set you on your feet again

Maybe you'll get a replacement  
There's plenty like me to be found  
Mongrels who ain't got a penny  
Sniffing for tidbits like you on the ground

So goodbye yellow brick road  
Where the dogs of society howl  
You can't plant me in your penthouse  
I'm going back to my plough

Back to the howling old owl in the woods  
Hunting the horny back toad  
Oh I've finally decided my future lies  
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