

John Prine – When I get to heaven

John Prine (October 10, 1946 – April 7, 2020) was an American country folk singer-songwriter. He was active as a composer, recording artist, and live performer from the early 1970s until his death, and was known for an often humorous style of country music that has elements of protest and social commentary. (Wikipedia – John Prine) He died of Covid-19. This is what he said he would do when he gets to heaven! <https://youtu.be/IOEiV423j0M>

"When I Get To Heaven"	
<p>When I get to heaven, I'm gonna shake God's hand Thank him for more blessings than one man can stand Then I'm gonna get a guitar and start a rock-n-roll band Check into a swell hotel, ain't the afterlife grand?</p> <p>And then I'm gonna get a cocktail: vodka and ginger ale Yeah, I'm gonna smoke a cigarette that's nine miles long I'm gonna kiss that pretty girl on the tilt-a-whirl 'Cause this old man is goin' to town</p> <p>Then as God as my witness, I'm gettin' back into show business I'm gonna open up a nightclub called "The Tree of Forgiveness" And forgive everybody ever done me any harm Well, I might even invite a few choice critics, those syph'litic parasitics Buy 'em a pint of Smithwick's and smother 'em with my charm</p> <p>'Cause then I'm gonna get a cocktail: vodka and ginger ale Yeah I'm gonna smoke a cigarette that's nine miles long I'm gonna kiss that pretty girl on the tilt-a-whirl Yeah this old man is goin' to town</p> <p>Yeah when I get to heaven, I'm gonna take that wristwatch off my arm What are you gonna do with time after you've bought the farm? And then I'm gonna go find my mom and dad, and good old brother Doug Well I bet him and cousin Jackie are still cuttin' up a rug I wanna see all my mama's sisters, 'cause that's where all the love starts I miss 'em all like crazy, bless their little hearts And I always will remember these words my daddy said He said, "Buddy, when you're dead, you're a dead pecker-head" I hope to prove him wrong... that is, when I get to heaven</p> <p>'Cause I'm gonna have a cocktail: vodka and ginger ale Yeah I'm gonna smoke a cigarette that's nine miles long I'm gonna kiss that pretty girl on the tilt-a-whirl Yeah this old man is goin' to town Yeah this old man is goin' to town</p>	<p>Gonna = slang for “going to” Blessing = luck, approval, support</p> <p>Swell = US English great, super Afterlife = life after death Ginger ale = non-alcoholic drink with ginger</p> <p>Tilt-a-whirl = game park attraction</p> <p>Witness = someone who testifies, says what happens in court Forgiveness = pardon Nightclub = a place to go to at night, to meet people, drink and dance Harm = damage, injury, trauma Choice critics = selected critics (here, critics Prine does not like (“parasites who have syphilis”), but who he forgives)</p> <p>Do with time = forget time, stop paying attention to time</p> <p>Cuttin’ up a rug = cutting the carpet (A colleague has suggested this probably means dancing or something more intimate.)</p> <p>Percker-head = someone who gives long kisses</p>

Here is a moving homage sung by Joan Baez a few days before John Prine died. It is a song by Prine, which Joan Baez says was one of her most successful songs too: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJPvc5vvKY4>