

WHEN...

1. Antiquity

When they lined up in the centre circle, and waved to all sides
When we caught glimpse of diamond floodlights and used them to guide
When dancing men on the Kop scoreboard welcomed a goal
When Pearson skewed skywards and he hid in a hole
When we vaulted from the Boys Pen and joined in the fun
When we skipped up the Lowfields when the league was won
When Batty saluted us in post-goal glee
When we surged forwards for goal chances we couldn't even see
When Ormsby took the roof off in the FA Cup
When McCluskey had Wright free but he never looked up
When we hugged beer-fuelled strangers we'd never met
When we stood outside the Peacock even when it was wet
When the South Stand was raucous, and bouncing and wild
When we pilloried the left back until he got riled
When we passed 'Hanging Sheep' sellers and avoided NF scum
When we clapped till the end of our fingers went numb
When the noise bounced off the Kop roof and echoed around
When we found someone's shoe that they'd lost on the ground
When the tribal songs floated off on the breeze
When your shoulder was soaked by overflowing peas
When we marvelled at the Thornhill Lees Militaires
When we gasped at the greenness at the top of the stairs
When we felt the homeliness of Fullerton Park
When the back-to-backs glowed on Beeston Hill in the dark
When we touched Billy's statue to bring us good luck
When we embraced relegation with the beachballs they took
When we laughed together in glum fellowship
When poor Kevin Blackwell said it was only a blip
When the Lowfields crash barriers caught you square in the gut
When your head was four steps further forward than your foot
When we all had bar scarves made of soft wool
When we queued for the North East because the Kop was full
When Saturday meant the peak of the week
When fish and chips afterwards was all we'd seek
When we loved the grass banks at each side of the stand
When we found more local pubs when beer was banned
When we piled on Football Specials that bounced from the Dark Arches
When under the M621 the crowd marches
When the underpass echoed with fevered expectation
When the Scarborough Taps welcomed away fans from the station
When the pitch was a quagmire and we cursed rugby league
When we clapped play-off loss due to battle fatigue
When all that we wanted was fight and commitment
When we got week after week after week fulfilment

2. Melancholy

When we don't have the indignity of Danny Pugh
When Aidan White hasn't a fucking clue what to do
When the Kop shuffles silently in dumbfounded slumber
When the South Stand can be counted in a three digit number
When a tea costs more than 100 bags from Beeston Co-op
When the empty winds whistle round the back of the old Kop Shop
When the Centenary Pavilion is our most celebrated achievement
When there's more atmosphere at your grandma's bereavement
When you go for a pint at half past three
When you stay in for a balti pie for your tea
When we huff and puff to put in a cross
When an unknown midfielder is showing us who's boss
When 'Marching On Together' doesn't quite catch on
When you lose all life's meaning because the feeling's gone
When you're longing for hatred or any emotion
When you're crying out for past days of devotion
When fans read the paper as the first half drags by
When the wife asks the score and you want to lie
When you sympathise with Warnock because he's doing his best
When you wish he could see Elland Road stick out its chest
When it was concrete and steel, not shiny, blue plastic
When it was guttural, menacing, wrong and fantastic

3. Faith

When we have players that sparkle and excite the crowd
When we have something, anything to make us proud
When we can all join together for a United cause
When we're not at the mercy of a confidentiality clause
When the club holds its fans in high esteem
When we don't spend ninety minutes wanting to scream
When football is all that we talk about
When we have a club with some vision, and leadership and clout
When the fans support the club and not just the team
When we remember what having a good football club means
When it's breathless, and dizzying and fills all of your senses
When it's pure football love with no pretences
When the blood pumps again and Elland Road is ignited
That's all I want from Leeds United

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