

When the World's on Fire

Oh my lov - ing mo - ther, when the world's on

fi - re, Don't you want God's

bo - som to be your

pil - low? Hide me

o - ver in the rock of

a - ges, Rock of

a - ges, cleft for

me.

1. Oh my loving mother, when the world's on fire,
Don't you want God's bosom to be your pillow?
Hide me over in the rock of ages,
Rock of ages, cleft for me.
2. I'm going to heaven when the world's on fire
And I want God's bosom to be my pillow.
Hide me over in the rock of ages,
Rock of ages, cleft for me.

3. Oh my loving brother, when the world's on fire,
Don't you want God's bosom to be your pillow?
Hide me over in the rock of ages,
Rock of ages, cleft for me.
4. Oh my loving sinner, when the world's on fire,
Don't you want God's bosom to be your pillow?
Hide me over in the rock of ages,
Rock of ages, cleft for me.
5. Don't you want to go to heaven, when the world's on fire,
Don't you want God's bosom to be your pillow?
Hide me over in the rock of ages,
Rock of ages, cleft for me.

"When the World's on Fire" is a spiritual, possibly African-American that was collected by A.P. Carter. It is one of the rare Carter sides on which A.P. takes the lead.

It has been collected only a couple of times, once by Vance Randolph in the Ozarks and once in Alabama. It seems possible that both of these versions come straight from the 1930 Carter Family recording.

Woodie Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" came from the Carter Family song "Little Darling, Pal of Mine" and that came from the hymn "When The World's On Fire".

This gospel song was probably brought to them by Black guitarist Lesley Riddle, who spent decades visiting black homes, churches and social gatherings for songs that the Carters turned into hits.

The song is used as a hymn in eight different hymnals published between 1916 and 1956 where the tune is known as "Fire Song". It is sometimes titled "Hide me Over in the Rock of Ages" or simply "Rock of Ages" and it was recorded as such by blues guitarist Blind Willie Blake.