

SONG FACTS

Get Back

Album: Let It Be **Date:** 1969

Early versions include the line "I dig no Pakistani's." The song began as a commentary about immigration, telling people to "Get Back" to their own countries. It was meant to mock Britain's anti-immigrant proponents. Paul McCartney thought better of it and made the lyrics more obscure.

A live version on the Apple rooftop ended the movie *Let It Be*. This is what The Beatles were playing on the Apple rooftop when the police shut them down. The album version is a studio take with the end of the rooftop concert spliced on, complete with comments to make it sound live.

"Get Back" was going to be the title of the album. The concept was The Beatles "getting back" to their roots and playing new songs for a live audience without any studio tricks. This song came closest to capturing that spirit, but the album became something completely different when they decided to scrap the idea of a live album. Glyn Johns, who engineered the sessions was asked to put the album together from what were really rehearsal tapes. After he put the album together, it sat around while the *Let It Be Movie* was being edited from the film footage of The Beatles rehearsing in the studio and playing on the rooftop. During this time, The Beatles made the **Abbey Road** album, released it, and broke up. John Lennon had Phil Spector produce his solo song "Instant Karma," which Harrison played on. They liked Spector's work and asked him to produce the **Get Back** album, which was re-titled **Let It Be**. Spector took the tapes and added orchestrations using his "Wall Of Sound" technique, and the album that was supposed to be the raw sound of The Beatles returning to their roots was released as a highly-produced final album after they had broken up.

Paul looked at Yoko in the studio when he sang the line "get back to where you once belong." John thought he was disrespecting her.

The character "JoJo" was probably based on Joseph Melville See Jr., Linda McCartney's first husband. He was from Tucson, Arizona, and killed himself there in 2000.

Adapted from www.songfacts.com

