

# A Whiter Shade of Pale

Procol Harum 1967

[C] [Em] [Am] [C] [F] [Am] [Dm] [F]  
[G] [G7] [Em] [G7] [C] [F] [G] [G7]

*{first note E}*

[C] We [Em] skipped the light fan[Am]dango [C]  
[F] Turned [Am] cartwheels 'cross the [Dm] floor [F]  
[G] I was feel[G7]ing kind of [Em] seasick [G7]  
[C] The [Em] crowd called out for [Am] more [C]  
[F] The room [Am] was humming [Dm] harder [F]  
[G] As the [G7] ceiling flew [Em] away [G7]  
[C] When we [Em] called out for [Am] another [C] drink  
[F] The [Am] waiter brought a [Dm] tray [G7]

And so it [C] was [Em] that [Am] later [C]  
[F] As the [Am] miller told his [Dm] tale [F]  
[G] That her [G7] face at first just [Em] ghostly [G7]  
Turned a [C] whiter [F] shade of [C] pale [G7]

[C] [Em] [Am] [C] [F] [Am] [Dm] [F]  
[G] [G7] [Em] [G7] [C] [F] [G] [G7]

[C] She [Em] said there is no [Am] reason [C]  
[F] And the [Am] truth is plain to [Dm] see. [F]  
[G] But I [G7] wandered through my [Em] playing cards [G7]  
[C] And [Em] would not let her [Am] be [C]  
[F] One of [Am] sixteen vestal [Dm] virgins [F]  
[G] Who were [G7] leaving for the [Em] coast. [G7]  
[C] And although my [Em] eyes were [Am] open [C]  
[F] They might just as [Am] well been [Dm] closed [G7]

And so it [C] was [Em] that [Am] later [C]  
[F] As the [Am] miller told his [Dm] tale [F]  
[G] That her [G7] face at first just [Em] ghostly [G7]  
Turned a [C] whiter [F] shade of [C] pale [G7]

The melody for *A Whiter Shade of Pale* is an original adaptation of Bach's *Ich steh mit einem Fuß im Grabe*, (I am standing with one foot in the grave), a church cantata he composed in Leipzig for the third Sunday after Epiphany. It was first performed on 23 January 1729