

The Poet Tree



Lawrence Burk

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Introduction

The Poet Tree is a compilation of poetry written by Lawrence Burk.

Lawrence was born in Rapid City, South Dakota on November 28, 1958. His parents were in the military and relocated many times, but eventually settled down on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi where he, and his five brothers grew up.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1980 to travel and see the world and was not disappointed. Over the course of his 20-year career, he completed six major deployments, two minor deployments, and numerous naval exercises on both the east and west coasts. He has sailed all around the world and on his many travels, visited eighteen countries on five continents.

After a career in the Navy, he used the skills he developed to continue a path in management and accounting as Controller for a successful Industrial Coatings Contractor on the Gulf Coast. It was during this time he developed his desire to write. He had long enjoyed a well-told tale and while recalling the literary influences he admired in school, he turned to his passion for writing and wrote seven novels before settling down with a fascination in poetry.

Published novels from newest to oldest: *V is for Vivian*, *The Harem*, *Gods of Tomorrow*, *Tricentennial*, *Beyond Providence*, *A Remarkable Curse*, and *Alien Within*.

A Broken Heart

My heart was impaled with an imaginary stake
A symbol of utter rejection
It opened my soul and drained all my love
To leave me desperate in painful reflection

No light could enter the hole in my heart
That's left a void in my life way too great
To fill or to fix for there's not enough time
Only broken-hearted people relate

The challenge to continue with a hole in my heart
Will take courage and strength this I know
Before I can start and make a move forward
I must learn how to completely let go.

A Chance To Give

I've had a good life with no regrets
It's been an amazing ride
I've never had to fight for life
I've never had to hide
The wonders of the world were shown
To me through grateful eyes
I owe so much to everyone
That's where my trouble lies
I'll never have the chance to give
Back to the special souls
Who gave so much to me in life
And helped me reach my goals
I've received more love than I deserve
And want desperately to give
To each and every one who loves
A chance to truly live.

A Christmas Prayer

Did you hear me pray for you this Christmas
 When you were feeling sad
 Did a ray of hope come visit you
 When you thought of what you had
Did comfort find you safe and warm
 When you bundled up at night
Did dreams of Christmas return to you
 When you turned out the light
Did you kneel down and say a prayer
 When it was time for bed
Did you finally find peace in your heart
 When you heard angels in your head
 Singing songs of Christmas joy
 And blessing those in need
Did you hear a prayer from me to you
 This Christmas with godspeed.

A Kiss Before I Go

Give me a kiss before I go
As my mind begins to fade
So, my troubles will not follow me
Into the heavens where I'm laid

Before I go, whisper in my ear
The love we used to share
Was true with honor and respect
We never faltered there

The parting ways we celebrate
Our journey through this life
Offers us a chance to live
Not once but perhaps twice

Allow my dreams to go with me
Out to the open sea
So, my love for you will keep me safe
For all eternity.

A Knightly Tale

There once was a kingdom served by two knights. Each sworn to protect the kingdom. One to protect the kingdom for the people, the other, to protect it from the people. This dance of swords continued for years until one day, the knights were overthrown by the people. One for drawing their sword upon them, and the other for allowing it. Now, everyone thinks they are knights.

A Passing Spirit

I am happy to meet those who find happiness
People smiling tells volumes in hope
I imagine their joy and take some for myself
Someday it will help someone cope

I share in the sorrow that I see in their face
No smile, just creases that tell of great pain
With a tear it can break what's left of their heart
If felt too deeply could drive them insane

As a spirit I glide through the air in the breeze
Touching everything and sharing all that I feel
Near you, beside you, and all around you there are
Emotions that can make your heart heal

I enjoy being the spirit of joy and of love
But I am not given a choice
I share what was happening for good or for bad
It's your life that carries a voice

So, some feelings you have may not even been yours
Some may be inspired by me
As I pass through your life, I share pieces of others
It's up to you to decide what you see.

A Poem At Bedtime

I shall read a poem at bedtime
Of calm and peaceful things
To ease my mind into a state
Where solace often brings
Dreams of joy and happiness
That free my mind at night
And let me know that when I wake
All will turn out right
Another day will come and go
And offer chance to grow
Amidst the challenges I face
And all the things I know
Which brings me to another night
Where peace I hope to find
I shall read a poem at bedtime
To ease my troubled mind.

A Poet's Poem

I've written many a fine poem in my day
A gift that I leave for the masses
The only desire I have for this work
Is for them to be shared with all classes

Like all of the poets who came a long time ago
And all who will follow me hence
All we could hope for is that you 'lend us your ears'
Our audience, who sits on the fence

Approval is nice but more important than that
Is acknowledgement that it made you think
Amusement is welcome and joy is a prize
At least spare us a nod or a wink.

A Robin's Song

A robin came to visit me
In the early spring
I could tell he felt great joy
By the song he chose to sing
He sat upon the fence a while
Then lit down at my feet
He pumped his chest and hopped around
A mate he hoped to meet
His swagger quite impressive
His song was crisp and clear
He called out loud, he made a scene
And sang for all to hear
In my garden I sat in peace
And listened to his song
It was calm, it made me smile
But didn't last for long
Early spring a robin came
And sang his lovely tune
He shared the sunshine and the dew
Then he was gone by June.

A Soul To Love

The end is near for all of us
Some closer than they know
I for one look forward to
The place where I shall go

A soul in heaven waits for me
Or should I say I wait
For the day I get to meet
The love for which I'm fate

She left this world when I was young
I've dreamt about her since
My soul will one day be at peace
When we meet in providence.

A Symphony of Whispers

A symphony of whispers
Echo deep within my mind
And like a Cello's somber notes
Leaves little joy to find

Lost in thought, I can't escape
The orchestra plays on
A future trapped inside my mind
Will soon have come and gone

Before this life leaves me alone
With faint music in my heart
The whispers haunt me mercilessly
Each word tears me apart

A symphony of whispers
Tell me I must beware
If I am to hear songs of praise
I must show that I care

The orchestra plays on and on
And if each instrument's in tune
The symphony of whispers
Will fade and be gone soon.

A Toast To Friends

I'll stand beside you as you speak
Your good name I'll defend
I'll hold you up if you fall weak
I won't forsake a friend
I'll think of you from time to time
And praise you to the band
I'll raise a glass and toast our prime
True friends will understand
We are not given many friends
We shouldn't feel despair
I'll see our friendship to the end
And let you know I care.

A Toast To Myself

The time is nigh
To bid adieu
As I set forth
My journey's through

I wish you well
Upon my leave
Grieve not for me
Nor my reprieve

I lived life hard
And ever fast
I knew this day
Would come at last

With no regrets
I say farewell
A life well lived
Was mine to tell

So, spare no anguish
On my behalf
Just toss a drink
And have a laugh.

Adventure

Adventure starts in the heart, and there it will die if not set free. To nobly challenge the earth on its terms is opportunity to live, free to throw yourself into the maelstrom and come out with a story. What other use for adventure do we need?

Alabaster Sculptures

In a cabinet behind glass
Alabaster sculptures stand
Depictions of a different time
When nomads ruled the land

Kings were slain and Pharaohs fell
Crusades had plagued mankind
Cities burnt and turned to ash
History was left behind

Symbols of those wretched times
Lay passively displayed
Reminders of how we destroyed
The world of which we've made

No longer cast in alabaster
The sculptures we create
Are those of undeserving fame
In a future that can't relate.

All I Wanted

At times I was happy, at times I was sad
At times I had thought I went totally mad
But at no time had I given a thought
That I had nothing to give nor to want

I looked at myself as a man with a purpose
To give was divine they all said
But the more that I gave, the less I knew sure
If it was useful to get out of bed

We practice being better people
We fail more often than not
There's so much more than a life of regrets
For not getting the things that we want

All I wanted was to leave this fine earth
A little better than that I had found
A word to the wise if your heads in the clouds
Keep your feet firmly planted on ground.

Alone on the Water

I've traveled far for many years
Upon the wind and waves
I've sailed the cape and around the horn
Lost friends to watery graves

I've lived a life filled with adventure
Many tales I've told to strangers
Not so many of ones that I hold dear
Just those of peril and dangers

As romantic as it may seem to be
On a swashbuckling sailor's crew
Life on the sea will make its demands
Alone on the water, adieu.

Alzheimer's

The worst disease to have, is one
That takes away your mind
And leaves you in an empty shell
With no memories left to find

To have your whole life wiped away
No friends or family
Abandoned all alone in life
Is a terrible place to be

All the things you loved in life
Have vanished ever more
And you are left to wonder what
You still have to live for

Who you were means nothing now
You don't remember why
You don't remember anything
Not even why you cry.

An Eagle Hunts Today

Far up in the mountains where
The trees reach to the sky
From out an eagle's nest I heard
A hungry eaglet's cry
It echoed through the land below
A notice to the fray
From shadows high above the ground
An eagle hunts today
He soared above the valley
He stayed focused all the way
From high above with lightning speed
He dove upon his prey
With talons strong he grabbed his catch
And carried it away
Back to his nest among the clouds
Where majestic eagles stay.

Answers

I embarked upon a pilgrimage
To ease my troubled mind
The answers to life's mysteries
Were what I hoped to find
I climbed a mountain to the top
The answers were not there
I wandered days through forest trails
The answers were not there
I sailed away to distant lands
The answers were not there
On spiritual retreats I found
No answers anywhere
The answers to life's questions
Will find us in the end
Where never more meets ever after
Where broken hearts can mend.

As Forever Begins Anew

Sullen deep my heart I sensed
The pain of incomparable loss
Suddenly I was no more
Left alone to stare at myself
Within the limits of my imagination
My anguish unobserved by visitors
A peaceful transition they had assumed
Far from tranquil I bid adieu
As forever begins anew

Another realm will silent my soul
It is in this peace unseen on earth
Where hope can be found
For the condemned presence of man
After manifesting madness in score
Yesterday is banished from entry
Unwelcome in this place
Where the present becomes tomorrow
As forever begins anew.

As the Storm Breaks

A storm had followed us for miles
 Across the ocean vast
Throughout the night we held our course
 We held on firm and fast

The horizon disappeared from view
 The seas rose over bow
The deck fell out below our feet
But we kept our course some how

In restless seas we sailed all night
 With hopes that we'd break free
And through the crashing waves we'll sail
 To calmer seas of lee

As the storm clears, we'll be set free
 To sail the seas once more
Our destination does not answer
 What adventure has in store

The seas we sail will often bring
 A storm to test our faith
But as the storm clears, we find peace
 In knowing we are safe.

At Our Fingertips

Our imagination limits us
To what we understand
Like how much beauty we can see
When we open up our hand

If we fail to see the beauty
When it's at our fingertips
We will never understand the words
That pass between our lips

Seek peace with justice instead of war
Live with faith instead of fear
Be good to people instead of bad
These things we need to hear

The limits to imagination
Are ours to manifest
We can choose what's beautiful
And disregard the rest.

Beauty

Poets and philosophers have written of beauty
 Since time gave them tools to write
We find now that there is more beauty than time
 In this world that has blessed us with sight

There is so much beauty and so little of time
 For us to actively explore
The wonders laid out before our own eyes
 In the landscapes of the outdoors

Dismiss the beauty if you wish to be sad
 But happiness finds beauty abound
The saddest thing ever for our ears to hear
 Is that there is no beauty to be found.

Before Your Eyes

It is said that your life flashes before your eyes when you die. I believe it is more accurate to say that your memory rewrites itself so you can validate your life and the decisions you've made. It is acceptance into a world where dreams end and forgiveness begins. I have concluded that if my memories are to be rewritten, I should make them good ones.

Behind the Glass

Through a window, I see the world
It is tattered and it is torn
From a distance far away
I can see how hate is born

People fight for what they want
And beg for what they need
They speak of love so cautiously
While hate waits to supersede

Backwards we have all become
From behind the glass, I see
A life that wasn't going to change
Without a change in me

I must step out from behind the glass
Confront life face to face
Be a part of something grand
Help save the human race

With actions not with idle words
Is how we change our fate
We don't have to win them all
We just have to beat the hate.

Bells in the Fog

Fearsome bells ring through the fog
 Danger warnings to the ear
 Sea lions rest upon the buoys
 That line the channel near

Beacons shine with colored lights
 To guide us safely home
Beleaguered travels near their end
 And question why we roam

Through the fog another chime
 Rings louder than before
Constant bearing decreasing range
 Predicts what is in store

Prepare to tack, the boat's on course
 To run itself aground
 In the fog we must rely
On that which comes with sound.

Betsy Blue

One cold November morning
In amber light she lay
Wrapped loosely in a quilted blanket
Upon a bale of hay
The puppies came one at a time
Till all eight cuddled warm
Against old Betsy Blue our dog
Who took refuge from a storm
She disappeared for a couple days
We feared that she was gone
We guess she needed somewhere soft
To have her puppies on
The barn was warm and safe for now
From rain or sleet or snow
The horse and cow, goat, and a pig
Now have some pups to show
Betsy Blue was twelve years old
We thought it did her harm
She amazed us all by raising them
And now they rule the farm.

Between Extremes

Somewhere between extremes
We find ourselves together
Somewhere between the coldest cold
The hottest hot
The darkest dark
And the brightest bright
Somewhere in the middle
We find ourselves together
While we continue our paths
Toward one extreme
We share a brief history
As I travel from dark toward light
It gets ever brighter
And the silence becomes unbearably loud.

Biloxi is My Home

I've traveled all around the world
But no matter where I roam
Mississippi blood flows through my veins
Biloxi is my home

The coast is long and beautiful
The river deep and wide
The gulf provides a chance to sail
In thick forest deer reside

Mississippi's warm and friendly
There are so many things to do
Sporting, dining, gaming, shows
Paradise hid in plain view

The gulf calls out to visitors
Come walk the beach and comb
Mingle with the residence
Make Biloxi your new home.

Books In The Attic

There are rats down in the cellar
There are bats up in the belfry
There are spiders in the cracks of walls
I have ghosts who keep me company

Snakes crawl out from cupboards
There are gravestones in the yard
My closet has a skeleton
It's not easy to disregard

Only candles light the darkness when
The sun drops out of sight
This old house was built before
The spark of Franklin's kite

In the basement there are frightening things
That keep burglars far away
But in the attic, I keep my books
Where I sit and read all day.

Build A Bridge

When the world is divided between us and them
And they separate one from other
Know that I will not blindly stand by
And let others decide who's my brother

I know who I am, and the others aren't me
You won't find me standing in line
They can call me a fool or whatever they like
But I'll stand by my word every time

To be strong all it takes is to know who you are
and refuse to listen to those
Who would tell you you're wrong and you must change your views
Which is how their false narrative grows

Inside you, you know what's right and what's wrong
If you let others change how you think
You've already lost yourself to the crowd
And your mind will be washed down the drain

Let's build that bridge where sane people can cross
Back and forth with integrity
Over the swamp that feeds on the weak
And maintain solidarity.

Cape Hatteras

Within dense fog a beacon glows
The lighthouse barely seen
Into the night I call the watch
To keep his eyesight keen

The channel's width is narrow
The markers warn of peril
The rocks upon the inlet serve
To break the water's trail

The current near the jetty's strong
Steer true and maintain speed
There is no room for error as
The Cape will not concede

Among the many ships that fail
They all share in one trait
They underestimate the strength
Of the current that holds their fate.

Change the View

If the world outside your window
Looks depressing and distraught
If the sky above is dark and gray
You're at risk of being caught
In the midst of troubled times
Where good is hard to find
But there are ways to overcome
The battles in your mind
The canvas that you paint in life
Can reflect that which you see
Or can reflect a fantastic theme
Like what the world could be
If what you see outside your window
Painfully troubles you
Don't blame it on the windowpane
It's up to you to change the view.

Charlatans

We have seen our fair share of charlatans
About the village, they're out selling their wares
One for a dollar or four for five
They thrive while consumers don't care

The people don't stop and think for themselves
They believe whatever they're told
They go through their lives, living the fool
Just existing while they wait to become old

Repeating a lie does not make it become true
Just as April does not become June
The charlatan counts on the people to follow
The piper as he's playing his tune

Don't be fooled by the charlatan's shuffle
Integrity is not their concern
Making you work for their daily wage
Is the lesson you'll painfully learn.

Chastity

There is no other in my life
That warms my heart like you
You shined on me when things were dark
I loved you as I grew
And yes, I grew I'm now a man
With destiny to find
Through all the years with all my love
I've had you on my mind
My schoolboy days were rosy then
But now they're not so fine
I've gotten everything I want
But you my love divine
I wonder often where you are
No love can this soul find
Because sweet Chastity it's you
Who's always on my mind.

Communication

There will never be another me
Nor another you
We're individuals set apart
By everything we do
The thoughts I have are mine alone
But I can share with you
Then you can see what's on my mind
But there's more that I must do
You've heard my side
We've reached halfway
To complete our repartee
I must hear your point of view
And what you have to say
A conversation is back and forth
A lecture is one way
And if you're wise you will not judge
The one with whom you lay.

Crazy Times

The world has gone crazy
One minute you're here
The next you're way over there
What started as wrong
Has turned into right
And nobody seems to care

I don't understand
How people ignore
What's right in front of their face
And preach to the masses
Of ill-gotten gains
While trashing the human race

Whatever happened
To virtuous times
When people stood for what's right
Seems all we see now
Are fools and their greed
Revealing themselves uncontrite.

Crossroads

We travel bewildered
On this road we call life
We arrive at many crossroads
The fork that we take
Will lead to more choices
Upon which we know not what they hold

For all of the choices
We make in our lives
The ones that mean more in the end
Are the ones that involve
The way we treat strangers
Not necessarily one who's a friend

Its ok to be lost
Every once in a while
As long as we believe we can find
Our way back on track
To finish with pride
Knowing we did it without losing our mind.

Cruisin the Coast

Cruisers come from near and far
All across the great divide
To show their favorite vintage cars
Along the coast and beach side drive

They'll ride the streets and boulevards
To show off their fine antique
They'll parade through daytime hours
and party for a week

You can bet when October nears
The cruisers get the itch
To polish up their hot rod rides
And party like they're rich

A spectacle everyone should see
At least once before they die
Cruisin the Coast is an awesome time
And pleasing to the eye.

Damaged Goods

It's a difficult life
We lead with our pains
We incur as we struggle each day
We're all damaged goods
In one form or another
Deep inside us we must find a way

The more hardships we have
The more hurt we endure
The more love we need to heal
No one escapes
Life without scars
Especially when pain's all you feel

Have mercy on those
Who are battling life
Our compassion can go a long way
In stopping the hurt
Or suffering for some
And bless them with a good day.

Darkness Waits

Darkness waits patiently for my arrival as the midnight hour weighs heavily upon me. Gravity pulls me to the ground in weakness and leaves me with my broken memories. The journey into darkness is exhausting and the emotional cost of a hand to hold, painfully, too much to bear. I close my eyes for what may be the last time, then wake and do it all over again. My penitence is in the waiting darkness.

Dear Sons and Daughters

What may sometimes sound like criticism
 May not always be so
Sometimes our words get lost in thought
 Sometimes we just don't know
 The perfect way to motivate
 Or help you on your path
But rest assured we've been down that road
 And are trying to spare you the wrath
 Our job is not to make your life easy
It's to prepare you in case you should crash
 Because once you're out there in the world
 Everything happens quite fast
The decisions you make have cause and effect
If you're not careful the fall could be brutal
 Our job involves preparing you so
 Your endeavors do not become futile
 If there is anything I can teach you today
 It's to learn how to fail with grace
Learn from your mistakes, tackle them head on
 So, they can't be thrown back in your face.

Dented Armor

I am a man with dented armor. My heart leaks yet I continue to fight. Some battles are worth fighting but always come with scars. If someone has no scars, they must not have found anything worth fighting for. A man with dented armor does not fear his decisions, he accepts them. A man who has fought no battles has never stood by a decision. Fear not those with dented armor, they are the ones willing to fight for you.

Doing Good For Others

A vow to stop our selfishness
Does not guarantee
That we will rise above our faults
And be who we should be
Mere words are empty vessels
And that's not saying much
Actions on the other hand
Are things that really touch
The heart and soul of those in need
And those who need to know
That kindness in the world is real
That's what we need to show
Humanity will not exist
If we abandon trust
That doing good for others
Absolutely is a must.

Don't Lie to Me

The tenets I hold true today
Are those of which I'll swear
By simple definition they
Can bring the truth to bear
Don't meddle with the honesty
Of which you cannot share
For when I hear the words you speak
It's clear that don't care
A lie that's told a thousand times
Does not make it true
So, if you want to lie to me
Keep talking till you're blue.

Dosser's Bay

I'm thankful for a sunny day
The wind that blows in May
The sandy beaches and the trees
That highlight Dosser's Bay

I'm thankful for the sound of birds
That sound I'm close to shore
With sails full, I'm coming home
I could not ask for more

I'm thankful for the gorgeous view
There's beauty all around
Picture-perfect memories
Will find me safe and sound

I'm thankful for the time to sit
Upon the deck today
And watch the moon come out at night
With you in Dosser's Bay.

Dread

Wanton memories echo in sparce slumber
Darkness forbids me clarity as my mind begins to crumble
 Bursting forth, trepidation harkens dire warnings
 Warnings, that of themselves are dread
And dread, to all qualities, haunt my nights mercilessly
 Verily no peaceful sleep; no sleep, no peace at all
 Fear collects within me and stifles my every breath
 Woe is the burden of those wanton memories
Painful are the choices left to ponder in dark quarters
 Forgiveness I plea, to the seat of judgement
 Leave me with my faculties
 And do not abandon me witless into the abyss
I am but a man and no more, yet no less a man, I dread.

Earth

We live in a place that's unlike any other
A place we affectionately call home
We travel through space forever going nowhere
In circles around a star all alone
The world we create is that of science and fiction
We dream then make those dreams come true
Now days we dream about moving away
From the green grass and clear skies of blue
To find a place that can replace what we have
Which would answer our question to roam
Away from this place if only to find
That there is no place like home.

Eight Bells

In memory of a shipmate who has stood the watch, let us honor them with our commitment to keep the watch, until it is ultimately our time to post. May their side boys stand resolute, the bells and Bos'n pipe sound clear, and the bugler's prayer hail their farewell, as we pipe them ashore. Rest in peace, may God be with them, and with our salute, we bid them, 'Fair Winds and Following Seas.' Their watch may be over, but their valor lives in the ruffles and flourishes within our hearts. Ring the bell eight times for our friend and shipmate who stood the watch.

Everyone Wants to be Heard

Everyone wants to be heard
But nobody wants to listen
So louder they cry to remove any doubt
What they say they say with volition

What they have to say is important to them
Not so much that they don't want to hear
But to them their opinion is more valuable
Than anything that can rest on their ear

You cannot debate with a closed mind
Understanding comes with headaches
We learn a little every time we are wrong
And learn nothing without occasional mistakes.

Exiled

With sorrow deep they sit alone
Their eyes dried shut from tears
An echo in their mind tells them
They've used up all their years
No one comes and no one calls
They lay awake at night
Exiled to a nursing home
They've given up the fight
Imagine some day when you're old
And need some special care
Just when you need it most of all
No one will be there
The elderly deserve much more
Than casting them aside
Dedicate some time and love
Give all you can provide.

Fallen Not Forgotten

He fell asleep and when he woke
He was standing in the past
A younger man stood in his shoes
While fighting fierce and fast
He turned around again to find
Himself with empty hands
The haunting of his youth escapes
Attempts to understand
His brother standing next to him
Was there but then was gone
Fallen in the shadows
Of his mind numb for so long
When he closed his eyes at night
That younger man was strong
Against the backdrop of a land
That has done so many wrong
He couldn't save himself that day
He couldn't save his friend
All he has are memories
Of time before the end.

False Pride

Beneath the starry sky at night
 Beyond a waterfall
I'll wander to a distant land
 And hide away from all
People have forsaken truth
 I wish them no ill will
But far from selfish hearts I shall
 Stay free and safe and still
A cabin in the mountains or
 A forest home I seek
I shall not want for company
 I do not wish to speak
People have forsaken truth
 For that I can't abide
I'd rather live life all alone
Than to live it with false pride.

Farewell

Farewell to thought, farewell to dreams.
I have witnessed much beauty, great love,
and many wonders in my life.

I am grateful for it all.

Farewell to family, farewell to friends.

As I take my leave, I bid you

'Fair Winds and Following Seas.'

Though my watch has ended

yours gallantly continues

with many more chapters to write,

journeys to take, and dreams to fulfil.

I hope you find love in your hearts

and peace in your souls

as I find them in these words, I leave with you.

Pursue happiness with integrity,

love deeply every chance you get,

and until we meet in a memory,

I Stand Relieved.

Father

His patience was strong. His resolve to always do right reminds me that my daily struggles pale in comparison. He was disciplined and wise. He treated people with kindness and loved me, even in my shameful and errant ways. When I faltered, he helped straighten my course and when I fell, he picked me up. I used to think that I could not live up to his expectations until I realized he was just living up to his own expectations as a father. He was a good father; he was my father, and I miss him.

Fires Don't Read

And so, it is told, that the answer is bold,
for those who are willing to fight,
and for those who standby, as they watch life go by,
the answer will never seem right.

I shall learn to engage my enemy with words,
words that will have them confused.
While they struggle to understand in recourse,
I will cunningly be left amused.

Of course, there are hazards when playing with fire,
there are warnings I really should heed,
but in keeping with style, I'm happy to say,
thank goodness fires don't read.

Five Brothers

One once was a sailor who sailed the seas
And traveled to faraway lands
One once was a builder who worked with fine wood
And built things with his bare hands
One once was a farmer who plowed the fields
And helped free the world from hunger
One once had a job that required great skill
He developed when he was much younger
The last was a poet who wrote things in verse
And told stories of how love began
Now all have retired and sit peacefully at home
Enjoying life while they still can.

Forever No More

Beautiful music
Beautiful places
Beautiful flowers
Beautiful faces
Beautiful things
We casually ignore
Will one day be gone
Forever no more

A soft friendly touch
A whisper so clear
A kiss on the neck
Joy cradling a tear
A moment of bliss
You share "Mi Amor"
Will fade over time
Forever no more

Appreciate family
Appreciate friends
Appreciate travel
Wherever in ends
Appreciate life
And the love you adore
One day will be gone
Forever no more.

Free to Dream

A land of magic where children go
At night when lights go out
Takes them to the wildest places
It's what dreams are all about
Enchanted forests of fairy tales
Castles in the sky
Islands where the giants live
And children never die
Close your eyes and drift away
Leave worries at the door
Enter dreams with an open mind
And be young forever more.

Freedom

The number one thing in life to appreciate is freedom. At its core, freedom is awareness; I am who I am because I am free to be me. When freedom is taken slowly away, eroded by time and illness, freedom takes on a new meaning. Witness each step you take in a day, note what you eat and where you go, realize that everything you do in a day is your decision, that is freedom. Goodbye freedom, you will be missed.

Friend

For all the things I've failed to say
To all the people along the way
Through life that's seen a better day
Thank you for being a friend

Forgive me for not being there
When you needed someone close to care
About the things life made unfair
Back when you were my friend

I've grown a lot inside and out
I've learned of things to care about
Like friendships there can be no doubt
We all deserve a friend

For everyone who remembers me
I hope you find in life the key
To be the person you were meant to be
The one who was my friend.

Get Away

A passing train in the middle of the night
Neon lights refusing you peace
A baby's cry from two doors down
Fire and police sirens sound their approach
Car, cab, and truck horns honk around the clock
And you tell yourself
You need to get away.

The sun rises over a quiet pasture
A spring breeze smells of honeysuckle
A bright blue day emerges
With the sound of courting birds
No work to be had, no money to be made
Life seems to be passing you by
And you tell yourself
You need to get away.

Getting Old

Memory's failing
Getting old
My how times have flown
An empty house
Quiet and still
Now that you have grown

Forgotten times
Misplaced dates
A vanishing life we lead
Unto the end
We fade away
Slowly our hearts bleed

A final wish
We have and make
That our loved ones will be spared
The anguish of
A broken heart
Because no one ever cared.

Ghosts in the Fog

A moonlit stroll in evenings hours
 enchanted by thick fog
Cast shadows of a stranger near
 A man out for a jog
I walked along the path with care
 Alert to every sound
A noise behind had startled me
 I spun and turned around
Just a gust of wind through trees
 My nerves were now a wreck
The shadows taunted me the same
 I felt it on my neck
I hurried home along the path
 The shadows followed me
The fog hid chilling ghosts inside
 So that I could not see
I shall not take a moonlit stroll
 The next time fog is near
The shadows cannot bother me
 Without the ghosts, I fear.

Giving is Our Greatest Virtue

Who will stand for those in need
When all the world has turned to greed
When people starve while others feed
Giving is our greatest virtue

Who will offer theirs to those
Who have no means and little clothes
While the population grows
Giving is our greatest virtue

If we could reset prosperity
To integrate all of society
Before we advance dependency
Giving is our greatest virtue

We do not need a welfare state
It's charity that can elevate
And save those from an awful fate
Giving is our greatest virtue

Let those in need contribute time
When they themselves don't have a dime
Being poor is not a crime
Giving is our greatest virtue.

Goodbye Duck

I put one foot in front of the other
And forward I started to move
I wobbled a bit from this side to that
But kept moving till I found my grove

Before I knew it, I was well on my way
Far from where I began
I never looked back and never slowed down
I finally broke free from the man

Au revoir mona mi, adios mi amigo
This is where I say goodbye
I'm not coming back, I will not be a snack
And I'm not going to be a duck pie.

Grace

Last night my life was terrible
I felt so all alone
Nothing in the day seemed right
I ached down to the bone
The day was short, the night was long
I couldn't catch my breath
All day long I couldn't think
My life was such a mess
But in the morning, I awoke
With sunshine on my face
The things that tortured me at night
Had vanished with God's grace
Or has the nature of my pain
Reversed its dreadful course
And released me from my agony
And left without remorse
Now I believe one thing's for sure
Bad feelings go away
And if I choose to carry on
I'll see a brighter day.

Hands

The hands that hold the face of an angel, that is what I wish to be. Like a mother's tear that had fallen upon her baby and bound them, the tear falling from me will be of joy. Joy that she is in my life, and joy for tomorrow's expectations. Never have I wanted to be those hands more than now. The joy of her touch could cure the world, if only the world could hold her face in their hands.

Happy Birthday Sweetheart

Happy Birthday Sweetheart
I hope all your dreams come true
I have but one thing I can give
A special wish for you
It comes with love straight from my heart
So, you will always know
That even though I can't be there
There's somewhere you can go
Close your eyes and think of me
And in that place, you'll find
Whenever you are feeling sad
My love can ease your mind.

Hatred's Blinding Light

Hatred is a blinding light
That burns our eyes so we can't see
Our truth is only understood
By what we wish should be

We cannot tell the right from wrong
Nor what we should believe
The blinding light of ignorance
Implores us to deceive

We must protect our eyes and mind
From hatred's blinding light
We cannot look into its heart
Unless we're prepared to fight

The day will come when we must choose
To stop hatred's blinding light
Or we will find ourselves alone
Forever dark in endless night.

He

He is not a he
He is not a she
He is not an it
He is not a thing
He's not here at our expense
We are here at his
He resides within each of us
Our soul is where he lives
He knows of which that we do wrong
He gives us clues of guilt
We will never elude the truth
The truth is absolute
He does not have a face
He does not make demands
Wherever in this world we go
He is with us to the end
People pray to a savior
But the savior's within us
If we open our heart to love
He will deliver us.

Help Me

Help me find the beauty
When the world has turned to gray
Help me through the struggles
That I face from day to day
Help me navigate the waters
When I'm lost on open seas
Help me find my way back home
I'm down upon my knees
Help me find the words to comfort
Those who are in pain
Help me understand this world
And keep me safe and sane
Help me be a better man
To do the things I must
Help me and my fellow man
With honesty and trust
For all the things I need help with
There's one that I need most
Help me find myself again
Before I become a ghost.

Hidden Peace

Among the many things I write
I often write of peace
It's a paradigm that's often lost
When living life on lease

Somehow words arranged in rhyme
Can stop or slow down time
And let us see within the words
A message hard to find

A hidden clue in silent script
Is something I might write
Sometimes to see what's in the heart
You must turn out the light

Cast aside the lease on life
Become invested ever day
Hide your peace within yourself
And separate the stay

There are those who wish to take away
The peace for which you care
So, peace is only possible
When no one knows it's there.

History

History is written from one's point of view
From another's point you may not know
Take what you learn with a grain of salt
For history may not always be so

The times in the past are often betrayed
As we wish that is what they have been
But reality today is less prudent and real
Than it was for the times way back then

Be cautious and kind as you reflect on the times
We all have an axe to grind
Be careful not to change history
Because you don't like what you find

History is there for all to concede
That times have a story to tell
What you remember is seen through one's eye
We should see through another's as well.

I Am Never Truly Alone

Although I've retired and alone spend my days
I am never truly alone
The memories I have keep me in good company
With all the good friends that I've known

Some in my shoes may drift into depression
Some may recede deep into the dark
I choose to think of my friends every day
And feel blessed that they're still in my heart

Even without physical contact
I can engage with my friends in a thought
Sometimes I'm surprised by their answer
But they have never left me in doubt

Some say that I must be crazy
But I don't really talk to myself
I talk to my memories that I keep in good company
So, I am never truly alone.

I Have No Patience

Patience is my greatest weakness
I don't have time to wait
No one can tell me otherwise
I simply can't relate
Tell a fire not to burn
Tell a liar not to lie
Tell yourself you'll be ok
If tomorrow, you should die
I don't have time to sit around
And watch the green grass grow
I just simply have no patience
That is all I know.

I Cannot Imagine

I cannot imagine a world without you
No crystal-clear waters no great skies of blue
A world without you would be void of romance
No hope for love not even a chance

You're everything that makes a sunny day bright
You're all that I think of from morning's first light
You are the reason for music's beautiful sound
And why birds sing songs when you are around

Without you I'd have no smile to bear
I would not be happy nor bother to care
As hard as I could I'd try not to be blue
But I cannot imagine a world without you.

I Walk Alone

The quiet of a forest trail
Relieves my troubled mind
Alone in nature's solitude
Gives me a chance to find
A peace within I cannot find
Among the hectic day
It's only when I walk alone
I find a better way
The sound the breeze makes through the trees
Takes away my stress
Which is the key to all things good
In love and happiness
Relax a while, enjoy a life
Free from anxiety
Don't let worry follow you
When you can walk carefree.

If I Could Create An Angel

If I could create an angel, I'd give her skin so soft and smooth. Her beauty would be mesmerizing, and her presence glorious. My angel would be smarter than me, to help keep me out of trouble, and protect me from evil. I'd fill my angel with compassion and wisdom, I'd fill her with love. My angel would be spectacular, she would be someone like you.

If I Could Do It All Again

If I had another life to live
I'd live it just the same
Except that I would venture out
To places with no name

I'd see the wonders of the world
I'd sail the open seas
I would go from near to far
Wherever I may please

If I could do it all again
Don't think that I am strange
But as long as you are by my side
There is nothing I would change.

If My Love Were A Note

If my love were a note, it would be written in tears

Only pain can explain how I feel
After ages of searching, I had finally found
The one to share a love that was real

Being apart makes all my words go away
And leaves me to silently weep
As I sit writing letters to you with my tears
In my heart your love I shall keep

If my love were a note, it would tell how I feel
How you always filled me with hope
You were the best part of all of my days
Without you I don't think I could cope

Instead, I'll continue to write you a note
With the tears that fall from my face
And rely on your memory to give me the strength
Until I finally get out of this place

If my love were a note, the page would be bear
Just covered with tears from my pain
No words can express how lonely I am
I'm convinced I'm no longer sane.

If Only

If only I were young again
I'd know who I could trust
I'd know the things I have to do
And do the things I must

If only I were young again
I would not fall from grace
I'd honor my commitments to
Advance the human race

If only I were young again
I would not have to cry
Because of all the things I've done
And never knowing why

If only I were young again
The mountain I would climb
Would be the one that gave me you
To love for all of time.

In Memoriam

We hold on to their memory
Like a scar upon the heart
Their absence still burns
And tears us apart
We ask for the strength
To continue our stay
Without them beside us
In sorrow we pray
We grieve for a while
Then pretend, we're ok
We're all out of words
There's nothing to say
Eventually with love
And help from our friends
We look to the heavens
Where we believe it all ends
In peace may they rest
Knowing that we still care
As we honor them now
With the memories we share.

In Your Honor

Twilight hours in solitude
Reserved for dreams of you
Back when we had owned the world
And all the stars were new
The moon would brighten every night
The sun would light our day
The birds would sing, and flowers bloom
All to hear you say
'I love you more than yesterday
I'll love you more tomorrow
If life should leave us here today
I'll die happy with no sorrow'
I'll save these twilight hours
To honor your memory
The sun, the moon, and stars will stay
To keep me company.

Inner Peace

What I want may never come
It's not for me to say
It's not a choice that I can make
Whatever comes what may
My choice comes intuitively
To accept or to deny
What's given to me fortunately
And never knowing why
Acceptance comes from peace within
Denial comes from rage
I can live free in my heart
Or live within a cage.

It Was an Awesome Day

I went golfing with my Dad last June
It was an awesome day
I did not hit the ball that well
Rarely finding the fairway
I lost 10 balls but found the water
Whenever it was near
And every sand trap on the course
The worst I played all year
My Dad had scored an eagle
Some birdies and some pars
My card did not fare as well
It was filled with cuts and scars
Though difficult it was for me
To play, I'd have to say
That even though I shot one ten
It was an awesome day.

It's All In How You See It

A man with no purpose sees love come and go
 Some men see love as a game
 A gambling man sees love as a prize
 A pious man sees love with some shame
 A man with ambition sees love as a tool
 A righteous man sees love as the truth
A young man sees love in the heat of desire
 An old man sees love as a youth
 A woman sees love as a gift to behold
 To honor and keep in her heart
She'll give till it hurts then give even more
 To keep it from falling apart.

Jack and Sybil

Sybil wrote of a love too deep to be felt
She spoke of promises lasting forever
She begged for the chance to become one with another
Her expectations were higher than ever

Jack wrote of a love that one day they'd meet
He spoke as if she were for real
He offered to take her just as she was
But she passed for a better deal

Sybil told Jack he had nothing to offer
As he held out both hands in good faith
Again, she'd deny a union of less
Than perfect, she just couldn't face

Jack would go on to find a partner who cared
Together they made happiness work
Sybil went on to live a long, lonely life
At least she never married a jerk.

Jamais Vu

One day I woke to find myself living in another's dream. Our realities were illusions in a mirror and the image looking back at me did not look familiar. I knew right then, I needed to find my own dream. After years of searching, I now see a reflection of a dream I can no longer remember.

Jolly Roger

The Jolly Roger flies above
The main at day's first light
The sun shines bright from stern to bow
As we prepare to fight

With vision pared they find it hard
To see our colors bare
A starboard pass shall waken them
With cannons blazing fair

A battle on the open sea
With sword in hand, we'll board
To Davy Jones all debts are paid
The locker filled and scored

Fly high yea Jolly Roger
Our ensign pride and true
Upon the mast in servitude
To captain and the crew.

Journey Well

Upon taking score of life's fair choices, we weigh anchor in search of peace. It is well to be called a journey. In life, as in our ends, it is a journey through uncertainty, and we can only hope to journey well. Across the seas to parts unknown, we travel uncharted waters in search of meaning, but only when we finally get there will we know how well we have traveled. If I were to be granted just one wish, I wish to journey well.

Jungle Spirit

The jungle spirit resides deep within me
It is drawn toward conflict and fight
I do not control it; it acts on its own
To protect me with all of its might

In dense brush I may hide on alert
In a tree, on a branch, I sit prone
I prowl through the night in quiet darkness
As I hunt the jungle alone

My prey passes naïvely beneath me
The jungle is more than a test
My spirit controls whether I leap to engage
Or leave it while I get some rest

I take what I need and fight when I must
The jungle is mine to defend
Be careful while roaming through the dense brush
Because in the jungle, I'm nobody's friend.

Just a Wrapper

Your body is just a wrapper
Make up will often hide
A pretty package often holds
An ugly deep inside
Shallow people gravitate
Toward popularity
They judge you by your wrapper
The outside's all they see
I'd rather have fresh fruit inside
A modest paper bag
Than rotten fruit in a shiny package
That's sure to make you gag.

Keeping Good Memories

I have no room for bad memories
I do not keep them anymore
I only keep the good ones now
It's what my elder years are for
As I stroll down memory lane
I see only happy years
The hard times that had challenged me
Vanished with the fears
When the end and I do finally meet
I will be ready and content
I will not let bad memories
Take away what love has meant.

Let Go of the Hook

So many thoughts and not enough words
To explain what I'm going through
Confusion from start to an unhappy end
Screaming is all I can do

I had a bad job, my dog ran away
My girl left me for my best friend
I lost my paycheck, I ran out of gas
And the rain looked like it'd never end

For all the bad things that kept happening to me
I did not give up on all hope
I kept my eyes open to changing my luck
Anything that would help me to cope

But I keep in mind just because it looks good
Secret wisdom I learned from a book
Says when things around you are falling apart
You have to let go of the hook.

Let There Be Peace On Earth

An image of a snow-white dove
A symbol of enduring love
Granted by the powers above
Let there be peace on Earth

Does good win over evil deeds
Does the shepherd harm the sheep he feeds
Will we forsake our brother's needs
Let there be peace on Earth

It's time we walk in glory's name
And stop the hate from which it came
If we can all just love the same
There would be peace on Earth.

Let's Get Away

Come go with me to a faraway land
And drink Mai Tais on beaches covered with sand
We can blaze wild trails that reach to the shore
We can climb to the skies and do so much more
Let's get away to a place of our dreams
With rivers and lakes and clear running streams
Away from the hustle and bustle of life
For mere moments of peace mere moments of blithe
The world will still be here when we return
Nothing will change except our concern
For the things we hold dear and deep in our heart
Like the love that we share even when we're apart.

Letting Go

I've done all I could do
I've said all I could say
It's time for me to bid farewell
And go my fettered way
My time has come, I've been called home
I leave you with this hope
For honor, faith, and glory's sake
You find the strength to cope
The courage one must bear in loss
And times of troubled woes
Is granted to the brave at heart
Or so the saying goes
Deep within yourself you'll find
The answer you search for
How to make sense of a loss
Or hurt forever more.

Life Is

Life is courage when we're faced with fear
Life keeps us from quitting when failure seems near
Life is strength when we can't go on
Life will continue long after we're gone
Life is pure like the fallen snow
Life is the sunshine that makes our face glow
Life is the sweetness of nature's desire
Life will survive even when we expire
Life gives us hope and fills us with joy
Life makes no excuses and does not destroy
Life changes our minds and makes it worth living
When we realize that life is quite simply just giving.

Life is a Puzzle

I am lost in my mind, I can't find my way home
There are too many paths I can take
Shall I follow my heart or should I trust in my gut
That the path I take is not a fake

A smile from a friend tells me I'm not alone
Until it's time to pick up the check
Who can I trust when I'm down on my luck
And the noose feels tight around my neck

Around me are people who say they're a friend
Until I'm in need of a hand
Then all of the sudden they have somewhere to go
How quickly they will break up the band

Life is a puzzle whose pieces don't fit
So, we cram them where they don't belong
And at the end of the day, we may look back and say
How could we have gotten it so wrong

Be true to yourself, don't rely upon others
But keep them close in your heart
Be better than them, let you be the friend
That keeps them from falling apart.

Life Through A Prism

I looked at life through a prism
From one angle I saw love everywhere
People helping each other, always lending a hand
I saw people who did actually care
From another side of the spectrum
A darker life reflected upon me
Everyone fought with each other
It was pure chaos and anarchy
The third view I saw was the difference
It's the people who control what you see
They turn it around to benefit them
And leave you wondering who you should be.

Life's Not Fair

When all the world seems out of reach
And leaves you all alone
When friends have all forgotten you
It hurts down to the bone
But life goes on without you
So, you lay awake at night
Remembering all the better times
When you were young and bright
People have their lives to live
A burden we become
When we no longer offer them
A chance to be someone
A distant star still shines at night
Without a dream to bear
For one so close to heaven's gate
No one said life was fair.

Loneliness

Life is hard when we're alone
A sadness fills our heart
The sorrow seems forever more
And tears our world apart
But when we're with someone who cares
Our troubles fade away
Our whole life brightens up a bit
When we hear someone say
Those three words we long to hear
In arms that hold us tight
They comfort us in times of need
And make us feel alright
Now loneliness is terrible
It eats away our soul
It leaves us hopeless in despair
With no chance to become whole
So, if you have a friend in need
By virtue of your grace
Be that special someone who
Gives them warm embrace.

Love Again

Through times unloved I'd lost my way
With heart in hand no words to say
What fate awaits me come what may
I long to love again

No comfort near nor peaceful sleep
No friendly shoulder upon to weep
Within my heart I pray to keep
Your love to feel again

From time to time, I think of you
I reminisce of things I knew
And dream about a love so true
I long to love again

Before my time wanes in despair
And all hope leaves me with no care
I know that in my heart is where
I'd love you once again.

Loving Me

When I feel hurt and all alone
And nothing goes my way
When all the world has turned on me
I lose the words to say
I close my eyes and think of you
I dream and you are there
You pick me up when I am down
That's when I know you care
My blues just seem to fade away
Whenever you are near
And I no longer feel the pain
That grew from out my fear
You give to me the gift of love
That I've been longing for
You comfort deep my soul in need
And love me even more
Mere words cannot explain my heart
I wish that you were here
Holding me within your arms
And loving me my dear.

Magic

There is magic in the way you move
I'm enchanted by your grace
Uninterrupted harmony
To see you face to face

With each step you draw a crowd
Each word you speak divine
With all the pleasures of the world
I've dreamt that you were mine

Your subtle charm's a lovely whisper
For my heart to hear
A feather touch to draw me close
And keep me ever near

There is a magic in this world
I see it ever day
In your eyes and in my dreams
My love will light the way.

Mail From Home

The Army and the Air Force
Join the Navy and Marines
In welcoming receipt of mail
 Bullets, and some beans
 Underway replenishment
 Or air dropped in the field
The sighting of the orange bags
 Will mark a chance to yield
A care package from home with love
 That they've been waiting for
Will boost morale among the troops
 And crew out far from shore
News from home and photographs
 In letters firmly bound
Wish their soldiers and sailors
 Return home safe and sound.

Make a Statement

Make a statement bold and loud
Let life turn you old and happy
At the risk of looking strange
Silly and somewhat sappy

Let people laugh at your expense
If laughter makes them well
The benefit you'll gain in life
Is something time will tell

When people look back at your folly
What will they take away
From all the jokes and gestures made
To brighten up one's day

The lighter side of life shines bright
The darker side casts doubt
So, make a statement bold and loud
Fear not what life's about.

Managing Time

Time is a commodity
Not everyone shares
One person will glance
While another one stares
How much life they see
Is different and yet
They both in their hindsight
Will feel some regret
For squandering life
And wasting their time
It's their lives to lead
But it's really a crime
To be given the blessings
Of limited years
Only to end up
With a face full of tears
Because there was more
That they wanted to see
In the end they will find
Managing time was the key.

Meditation

I find that in solitude I am who I am
But I change when people are near
It is not because I try to impress
I only show myself to those I hold dear

I do not allow others to alter my mind
I am capable of seeing the truth
It's a gift that I have but I've had to work hard
To develop it since I was a youth

It starts with confidence that I understand
What it is that I see, and I hear
It ends with the commitment to do the right thing
Regardless of what I may fear

In meditation I sit in peaceful reflection
Of the games and the roles, I have played
And concede to myself if to only myself
The mistakes in this life, I have made.

Memories

My memories are pictures I save in my mind
 They're songs I sing in my heart
My memories are times in my life that I keep
 To share when we are apart
My memories of you are more precious each day
 They comfort and dry up my tears
 They'll keep me company time and again
 Until time runs out of years
Now that you're gone, I have nothing but time
 Times graced me with memories of you
Those memories come back to share with me now
 A wonderful life in review
My memories are pictures and songs that I love
 Without them I'm dust in the breeze
 Thank heaven above for sending me friends
 Who bless me with great memories.

Men Who Like Poetry

Men who like poetry are stronger than most
They can express how they feel without fear
For those who are afraid of how they may feel
There's always cussing and fighting and beer
You don't have to wear your heart on your sleeve
To acknowledge the beauty in word
Inside each of us is a warrior of love
Waiting to break free from the herd.

My Angel

We walked through the meadow, her hand in mine. She smelled of sweet flowers and her touch was soft and warm. I was afraid she would catch me staring at her beauty and modestly gazed at her in delight. The setting sun cast golden rays across the field as a beautiful afternoon came to an end. We raced home through the field, hand in hand, and each step, in time. We smiled and laughed before giving each other a goodbye hug. It felt like our hearts beat as one. I was five years old when I met my angel, and she gave me this memory as a reminder that we can feel love anytime we want.

My Dog is a Jerk

I came home late last Thursday
My dog emptied the cat box
He pulled the laundry from the hamper
And chewed my favorite socks

He barks at every noise outside
Especially passers by
I cannot get a moment's peace
He even barks at the blue sky

My dog needs help, he has some issues
He chews on everything
He walks through mud and leaves paw prints
He howls wildly when I sing

The more I think about it
It will take a lot of work
But I can't give up on my best friend
Even though he is a jerk.

My Heart Aches

My heart aches for the ones who lost
 A loved one in a war
Who questioned what it is was that they
 Were really fighting for
So many young who fought with valor
 For a cause unsure
Have left their blood on foreign soil
 But kept their honor pure
My heart aches for the souls we lost
 They deserve utmost respect
 They sacrificed their everything
 Devotion we can't neglect
 Without the brave who dedicate
 Their lives to valued cause
No country could survive in peace
 It's one of our great flaws
My heart aches when the world allows
 Our young to die in vain
Let's honor them within our prayers
 Our heroes fallen fair
They raised their hand and swore an oath
 It came with sacrifice
It cost their life; we lost loved ones
 That's such an awful price
My heart aches for those who pay
 That eternal price every day
Without their loved one's company
 But with pain that's here to stay.

My Lunar Friend

I'm coming home on wind and sail
Fare thee well old friend
The moon that's kept me company
Will see my journey's end
So big and bright in the midnight sky
Shine down on me tonight
Guide me home, my lunar friend
My sails full and tight
Illuminate my safe return
Until the horizon lets you rest
Then I will wait for your return
In the lonely skies out west.

My Mother Was A Saint

I can't help but laugh at all the little things that made my mother human. I laugh at how she used to dance or sing while she thought no one was looking, or how she once chased a vicious dog out of our yard with a broom, and how she loved a good joke. She filled our days with exciting things to do, she applauded our performances in school plays, and was always there to cheer for us at ball games. She seldom got angry, but when she did, we knew it was well deserved. She didn't boast or put people down, and her smile came straight from her heart. I laugh at all the little things because I know they were just her disguise. Deep down, I had no doubt, my mother was a saint.

My Swan Song

Through life I wander searching where
My hopes and dreams of which I care
Are stored in safety hidden there
Among the secrets I dare not share

And too are dreams that call to me
Forever longing love for thee
These dreams that I keep safely see
Without you a sad world to be

Alone I walk, lost, warn, and hollow
With only empty air to swallow
Forever searching for tomorrow
Without you I shall live in sorrow

With you beside me I would be strong
Afraid of nothing right or wrong
It's what I've dreamt of for so long
You are so close, hear my swan song.

Nature

Look through the eyes of something that goes
Where people don't usually go
See what is there beyond all the trees
A fresh look at what we should know
Life is more than a nine to five
Or a car or a house in the hills
The world keeps moving even when we're asleep
Even if we don't pay our bills
Get off of the sofa and journey outside
Explore a little everyday
One day you may find that you've lived a good life
And saw nature the way it should stay.

Navy Postal Clerks

The postal clerk lives by a code
One of honor and respect
With trust we take a solemn oath
Integrity we won't neglect

The job's not done till all the mail
Is safely on its way
Liberty will have to wait
We'll be sorting mail all day

The protection that we give the mail
Is our sacred obligation
It's a duty that we're proud to bear
To serve this grateful nation

To all my fellow postal clerks
Stay vigilant and stay true
Your reward arrives at mail call
When everyone loves you.

No Greater Burden

No burden is greater
Than what ego provides
Free yourself from your mind
Begone the torment
Of an answer unknown
That you were not meant to find

Alone in one's thoughts
Are where answers come from
Beside them confusion will hide
What is meant for passage
Through mind's open door
Cannot be forced by pride

The burden of truth
Will be far greater still
When you close your eyes at night
And lay awake tired
Unable to sleep
Because you know what is right.

Not Too Far Away

It's not about my ego
It's not about my pride
It's not about the little things
I keep bottled up inside
It's all about the need to know
That people really care
And knowing that someday when I
Need them they'll be there
I'm fine with being roasted
Criticize me if you will
I do not mind a little bit
It's not a bitter pill
It is however comforting
When you hear people say
If you ever need someone to hold
I'm not too far away.

Nurses

The world by far is a better place
Because nurses sow a seed
That grows within a caring heart
To comfort those in need

They sacrifice a part of them
Compassion at its best
They show patience with their patients
As life puts them to the test

We depend on nurses all the time
And we need them to be there
Always vigil standing watch
We count on them to care

There are three we really need to thank
If we're lucky to become old
Angels, Saints, and Nurses
With gentle hands and hearts of gold.

Ode To A Sailor

They laid him to rest with no words to be said
The stone that was carved had no words to be read
 A quiet old man he had barely a friend
Throughout all his life he was quaint to the end
 He had but one love the love of the sea
 Alone on the water is where he felt free
 He set sail on a course that had no return
He gave up on the world and lost his concern
 But as he set sail there were eyes on the pier
 Watching him leave and wiping a tear
 A lonely and selfish life he had made
 Made sure and for certain he was to be laid
 Alone in the ground forever to rest
With no memories of him just those of his quest.

Oh Beautiful Day

Oh, beautiful day, where have you gone?
I chased you into stormy clouds
Then you vanished before me and left me in darkness
Come back to me, back into my life
Where I too, can feel beautiful
If only for a moment, a priceless moment
That I shall never again take for granted
Only pain and sorrow prosper without beauty
And the world has seen its share of wretched days
We need more beautiful days, return to me
Oh, beautiful day, where have you gone?

Old Friends

I think of old friends I've had over the years
Who have faded to memory from time
We stopped getting in touch and we went separate ways
Through no fault of theirs nor of mine
I wish them well and I hope that they're fine
I know they would wish that for me
Sometimes I can't help but to think of them still
And wonder if they are happy
For all of the friends that I've lost to the years
I just want them all to know
That they still give me comfort when I am alone
Because my memory's the last thing to go.

On The Fantail

I hung out on the fantail
One of my favorite spots
I'd sit for hours with some line
And learn to tie my knots

The ocean churned behind the ship
Creating a luminous wake
Sealife from the deep would rise
To feed upon the break

There's no more peaceful place to be
Than the fantail at sundown
The sky would turn a brilliant orange
And leave me entirely spellbound

The smoking lamp was lighted
My mates would gather there
We'd tell some tales of where we've been
And loves we've left somewhere

When I find myself with time alone
You can find me at the stern
Gazing out at where I've been
And dreaming of my return.

On This Land

On this land, no neighbors near
Far from violence, smog, and fear
Alone to wonder why I'm here
And ponder things that I hold dear

White clouds that bellowed in the sky
Told a story and asked me why
People choose to scream and cry
All the while they live a lie

But on this land, I believe is where
I found a peaceful feeling there
A solace that was oh so rare
And gave to me a chance to care

So, I could go back home and be
Among the things that troubled me
Thanks to the land where I could see
The peace I found that set me free.

One Last Chance To Sail

I've sailed across the Atlantic
Around the UK and beyond
I've passed through the Straights of Gibraltar
And anchored off Lebanon

I've crossed the Pacific to ports with no name
I've been to exotic places
I've met wonderful people from all over the world
So many smiling faces

From the Americas to China and all ports in between
I've sailed for weeks at a time
The Oceans give passage to those with the heart
In hopes of adventure to find

Riding the crests of large breaking waves
Tests all of our sailing skills
There's no rest for the weary when the ship has to tack
There're no rewards to be had without thrills

When sailing becomes more than I can endure
I'll insist on one last chance to sail
And I'll remember my oath to give body and soul
To the sea I shall go without fail.

Our Angel's Voice

We have a choice to love or hate
To accept or to deny
We can make each day our best
Or curl up and cry

What we believe can change our world
We need to put to work
A plan that makes us more improved
And not become a jerk

There are those who may disagree
With everything we say
Don't let them rent space in your head
There is a better way

It starts with a good attitude
Being positive is the key
We might be surprised to find
How happy we can be

So, as we go about our day
Remember it's our choice
To love or hate or let it be
May we hear our angel's voice.

Our Country

Not long before our nation's birth
People died in vain
Ruled by emperors, tyrants, and kings
The people lived in pain

From Lexington to Yorktown
Our freedom was not free
We fought for life and liberty
And changed our destiny

Our country has not failed us
The fault is strictly ours
We're the ones who put in charge
The people we empower

The bravery and the purity
and the justice we embrace
Were woven into red, white, blue
Upon the staff we grace

Our country has not failed us
We steered ourselves off course
Abandoned faith in God above
And values we endorsed

Don't blame the country that I love
For faults that we create
Blame yourselves for failing to
Live the life innate.

Our Lot In Life

Our lot in life is misunderstood
We were not meant to win
We were meant to grow and change
Then do it all again

After life comes afterlife
A place in only dreams
Once you're there, there's no coming back
Nothing is what it seems

We leave this world for a better place
If that's what we believe
But if that were true, why do we fear
The time we have to leave

Our lot in life is to be found
When we have reached the end
And realized that our whole life
We were our own best friend.

Out of Sight

Children lose track of their parents
When they move away
Out of sight and out of mind
Is what they used to say
It's not that they're no longer loved
Because they've move away
But out of sight and out of mind
Sure makes it feel that way

For parents out of sight does not
Mean they're out of mind
Forever caring is what they do
With love they firmly bind
It's hard to be a parent when
Your children search to find
Themselves in this big world when
You are out of mind

When people grow and move away
They become out of sight
Before too long they're out of mind
A concept hard to fight
It happens to the best of us
But we can make it right
Keep their love within our heart
And hold on with all our might.

Out of Whack

My heart is older than it should be
My mind may have yet to be born
My soul lays at rest on hiatus
I believe my life to be torn
I look to the past and dream of the future
The world seems all out of whack
My emotions are bottled up deep down inside
I can't get myself back on track
I long for the day when my heart finds my mind
And together they rescue my soul
To put me back together again
And give me back my life's control.

Pages of My Life

The pages of my life are torn
They are frayed upon the edge
Though bound together well with glue
Be careful as you dredge
Some pages tell of deep divide
Some tell of things I fear
Some pages tell of endless love
And of things I hold dear
The pages of my life are written
With blood and sweat and tears
From the start they're filled with things
I've done throughout the years
Some pages hold my memories
Some hold my thoughts and dreams
Some pages tell of how I lived
And what life really means
The pages of my life are told
By people that I know
So, turn the pages carefully
Be gentle as you go.

Paint Me a Masterpiece

When I am gone, please take my ashes
And mix them in oil paint
Then spread me on a linen canvas
In a portrait still and quaint
To leave a living legacy
Bound in a wooden frame
And remind the ones who once knew me
I died happy with no shame
With an artist's eye and master's touch
Paint a masterpiece with me
Hang it on a wall somewhere
For all the world to see.

Paranoia

Alone at night I sit and think
For when I lay sleep not a wink
Against my windowpane rain falls
I hear faint whispers through the walls
The stairwell spirals to my room
Its corridor is filled with gloom
The rattle of a ghostly chain
Draws nearer as I go insane
Far from a calm and cool head
I hide myself beneath my bed
Lighting strikes and thunder roars
As if were slammed my house's doors
The clock strikes twelve I feel death near
My heart beats fast and full of fear
Oh, Mother Mary save my soul
Before I hear the clock's next toll
Then at the door a shadow stands
Says not a word just waves its hands
Out from the bed I scream with fright
Jump out the window to the night
And as I fall, I have a thought
I am insane and death I've bought.

Pass It Down

Many a great people
Have come long before us
And helped society grow
They invented some things and created a way
To pass down all the things we should know

They passed down their art
They passed down their music
They passed down their history as fact
If only they would have thought to pass down
The important things we still seem to lack

Our behavior tells more
Than all the nicely told words
What we do matters more than we know
Our children will learn to master our faults
If we can't learn how to not let them show

Pass down all the good things
Like compassion and love
Pass down those things that we need
Allow your children to learn to be good
And a great person will grow from that seed.

People Are But Mice

I want to believe that people are good
I want to believe we are nice
I want to believe people care about us
Unfortunately, I think people are but mice

People are herded through life with a carrot
Promises that will never come true
Because people are mice and have no control
From the dumb logic we learned as we grew

People go after and hunt shiny things
They use each other as bait
The more shiny things that we have in our sites
The more dumb logic will control our fate

People are mean, and selfish, and cruel
They only care for themselves
One day not long from whence we began
We'll be recalled and put on a shelf

We'll run around in our playhouses
Chasing our bright shiny things
And another species more logically sound
Will be standing there pulling the strings.

People In Groups

People are shallow, selfish, and rude
Together they learn to destroy
They gather in numbers to put other down
There's no action that they won't deploy

Alone they are strong and have thoughts of their own
They'll stand up for what they believe
A soon as they gather their minds seem to meld
Into emptiness and thoughts to deceive

People are hateful and ruthless at best
They'll steal your last bit of food
They'll walk over your wet body out in the street
Without flinching or changing their mood

By themselves they are wonderful people They care, and they give,
and they try
To be better stewards of this world they are given
But together it's all just a lie

Why people turn ugly when others are near
Is a mystery that haunts us alive
There will be no room for the gathering of fools
When judgement day finally arrives.

Port of Call

As I head toward liberty, I am wisely reminded to mind my P's and Q's. Another ship, another port, another liberty call, provide adventure abroad. Minding my P's and Q's may prove difficult. Having more cents than sense, and trusty shipmates to carry me safely home, I look forward to liberty. Afterward, we'll weigh anchor and set sail, three sheets to the wind, to our next port of call. Such is the life of a sailor.

Prey or Prayer

For some life is a game of chance
They cheat, they lie, they steal
Some fight for everything they have
Some fight just for a meal

Take, take, take, is all they do
To hurt and harm their creed
The consequence of such a life
Is a distorted sense of need

But for those who see a better way
Life frees them from their fears
A life that shows them peace and love
And spares their woeful tears

Beyond the realm of selfish man
Within a kingdom worthy there
The love that once seemed far away
Will surround us everywhere

Spare the anger of their savage ways
Not everyone will rejoice
To prey on each other or prayer with each other
We all have equal choice.

Princess

When you were young you played dress up
You had posters on your wall
Stuffed animals were favorite toys
From small to very tall
The amazing lady you've become
Fills my heart with pride
Such a happy day it was
When you became a bride
Knowing that your happiness
Grows each and every day
Means everything to this old heart
With tears I humbly say
I wish you joy I wish you love
I wish you happiness
I wish that all your dreams come true
I wish you all the best
It doesn't matter how old you get
Or all the things you've done
You'll always be that little girl
And princess to someone.

Real Heroes

Some people claim to be a hero
They're looking for some fame
They want you to acknowledge
their efforts just the same
But real heroes hide behind
The scene as it unfolds
And do the things that they must do
Regardless of who is told
They do it for the little guy
The ones that need it more
Bravery is not a tool
For people keeping score
When people utter words like "I"
You'll know that they're a fake
True heroes give the credit to
The victims for their sake
Heroes live with modesty
Doing righteous deeds
Be wary of the claim-stalkers
Whose egos they must feed.

Redemption

When the echoes become muted
By silent waves of pain
The message lost is one of hope
Of finding shelter from the rain

When the voices in your head concede
You've lived life too headstrong
And redemption is at risk of loss
If you can't right the wrong

When torture born from deep within
The shame and guilt of yore
Tells you that it's time to change
Or suffer ever more

Keep in mind it's not too late
To reconcile bad things, you've done
Goodness will prevail in time
If you're kind to everyone.

Ride It Like a Cloud

Everyone has a story to tell
Or a song or poem in their heart
Everyone starts with a clean slate
Their life to be played out in part
Piece by piece a puzzle appears
And suddenly we become whole
Together the pieces make us who we are
And sometimes exposes our soul
So, tell your story and recite your poem
And sing your song out loud
Don't hide yourself within a storm
But ride it like a cloud.

Rose Colored Glasses

To view life through lenses of rose-colored glasses
 May seem annoying to some who prefer
To see life in a frame made specifically for them
 And treat others as less with demur

Through filters of color, we can choose to ignore
 The backgrounds of things that impede
The beauty we seek in each passing day
 As we fight for our right to succeed

Those rose-colored glasses may look silly to some
 But to see the day in pink hue
Can help you remember that the world's not just gray
 And has something to offer to you

So, while there are those who would cast you aside
 Remember that life is a choice
You can live in the gray and judge everyone else
 Or you can look through a lens and rejoice.

Sail Away

Sail away into the night
On a course where the moon lights your way
Take nothing for granted and leave nothing behind
Have no words left that you need to say

Start a beginning that has no loose ends
That could follow you into your dreams
Sail on to horizons where the sun gently sets
And gives rise to the moon's fervent theme

The life of a sailor starts in the heart
It ends when the sea reaches shore
The stars will direct their movement at night
And will torture them when they can sail no more.

Serenity

One early summer morning
As the sun began to rise
The sound of nature filled the air
Clouds rolled across the sky
More colors than the rainbow holds
Brightened up the day
The smell of blossomed flowers
Left me with few words to say
How beautiful the day became
And graced me with great joy
Is a memory I've kept inside
Ever since I was a boy
And if I never live to see
Another day so pure
I will always have this memory
Of serenity, I'm sure.

Shadows in the Mist

As distant as the stars at night
Look down upon the earth
As close as mother is to child
At the time of birth
As wonderful as is your smile
When I look upon your face
As time goes by, I fear my love
Will never feel embrace
You are so close and yet so far
As if we don't exist
Together and apart at once
Like shadows in the mist.

Should We Teach

Should we teach our children of fine music?

Should we teach them about dance?

Should we teach them we need literature
and poetry's romance?

Should we read them bedtime stories?

Should we sing to them a song?

Should we buy them books and painting sets?

Should we allow them to belong?

Let them love their music.

Let them speak in rhyme.

Let them beat upon the drums

two hours past bedtime.

Silent Never More

Deep in imagination
Where poets go to dream
Exists a world of platitudes
Where things aren't what they seem

A fantasy of how to live
If everything was right
A place to hide their deepest love
Safely out of sight

Creativity is born
Within the author's heart
When they can separate themselves
From that they tear apart

Reach down in your soul to find
The meaning you search for
And let it out for all to see
Be silent never more.

Simple Rules

Make it a point to tell people you care
Be friendly and kind to strangers
Give more than you take and do no one harm
Have courage when faced with dangers

Celebrate life and all its rewards
Enjoy the company of others
Honesty will save you from guilt
Respect your fathers and mothers

Identify beauty around you each day
Have compassion for people in pain
Dance by the light of the silvery moon
Take a walk with your love in the rain

Simple rules so easy to follow
When you try not to complicate
A life that you are not meant to survive
But pass knowing that it was great.

Sometimes

Sometimes I don't want to wake up
Or get myself out of my bed
Sometimes I want someone to talk to
Sometimes I wish I were dead
Sometimes everything seems so lovely
Sometimes I see beautifully clear
Sometimes I feel so elated
And happy with nothing to fear
I understand thoughts of depression
And try hard to focus on hope
But lately it seems I've asked all the right things
Without finding the answers to cope
Sometimes seem to last me forever
Sometimes are easily forgotten
Sometimes I can be so agreeably pleasant
Sometimes I can be totally rotten
My problem with all of these sometimes
Is that they're happening at the same time
The closer I am to understanding it all
The more the answers entwine.

Somewhere

Somewhere in the world out there
There is a soul in need
Of a message of support
Or a kind and thoughtful deed

Somewhere in the world out there
We can change a lonely life
By offering our ear to hear
The nature of their strife

A simple step that matters most
To people feeling pain
When someone takes the time to be
With them in the rain

Somewhere in the world out there
I hope this message goes
To anyone who needs to hear
They matter and it shows.

Spirit Of The Sea

I hear a whisper in the wind, I feel the spray upon my face, and the taste of salt seems permanent as I sail to the open sea. Beneath the stars by night, and the sun by day, I shall journey into the unknown, across the ocean like a song carried on the surf and chase the horizon in search of adventure. The wind and waves will keep me company and remind me that the vastness of this world is meant to be explored, and it will be the Spirit of the Sea that guides me.

Springtime

Spring has come, the snow is gone
The gray has turned to green
Flowers bloom and birds sing songs
Many wonders to be seen

The winter's cold had stifled life
Now days begin to warm
And life begins to dance and play
Butterflies begin to swarm

Springtime is my favorite time
It's not too hot or cold
The colors of the rainbow paint
The landscape bright and bold

Springtime is a time for love
It comes when April starts
With eager voice I say goodbye
To winter's frozen hearts

Every year I cannot wait
For spring to start again
It reminds me of the ones I love
I miss most now and then.

Stand Up

Stand up against the predators
Stand up against the hate
Stand up for those who cannot stand
Stand up it's not too late

Choose not to be a victim
Choose to fight for what is right
Choose a path that's honorable
Choose to stand up and to fight

The world needs people strong at heart
The world needs heroes true
The world has many obstacles
That we must stand up to

Stand up against the evil deeds
They are many and we are few
But if we stand together
There's nothing we can't do.

Stay True

Hide the shame
Flaunt the beauty
Covered faces
Scream with fury
They tell a lie
Truth be damned
They don't care
It's all a scam
Life's not easy
Take things slow
There is one thing
That you should know
The only one
You need is you
Unto yourself
You must stay true.

Stone Castle

I want to carve a home in stone
A cave to call my castle
Into a mountain tall and wide
A mansion grand and dazzle

Secrets of the world I'll scribe
Along the walls they'll hold
For generations long to come
Our story to be told

History will not change in time
Like times have changed the past
But permanently written in the walls
In stone the words will last

My castle walls will preserve the truth
May bygone centuries boast
That man has done all that he could
To take away the most.

Stories of the Heart

When stories of the heart are told
I often wonder if love is real
Or is it something we imagine
When we feel the need to heal

Is it something we must have to live
Is it something in our way
Will we find it if we search our soul
Will it come and go away

Are stories of the heart a way
To crush the dreams of youth
Are they meant to separate
The ogre from the couth

When stories of the heart are told
I often wonder what's the chance
That I may live to play a part
In that story called romance.

Summer Shade

I love a warm summer's day
To sit in the shade and dream it away
Beautiful gardens and songs from the trees
Calms me down with a slight summer's breeze
Give me a day with a book in my lap
And a place of solace where I can just nap
The warmth of the sun reminds me of you
It gives me peace when I haven't a clue.

Sweet Daisy

In the sweltering heat, there was scarcely a breeze
No canopy provided shade from the sun
With no luff in her sails, we sat dead in the water
Suddenly sailing was not so much fun

I looked to the west and saw clouds rolling in
Thankful that there might come some wind
To break this blistering air that we're in
And get Sweet Daisy moving again

The wind picked up quickly and filled out her sails
She yawed then began a deep roll
I held the wheel tight and firm with both hands
Into the wind I sailed with control

By early afternoon the seas rose by six feet
We were pushing twelve knots maybe more
It wasn't clear if I could outrun this brief storm
I didn't know if we could make it to shore

Alas the storm was too much to escape
I had to settle in and allow it to pass
I hauled in the genny and reefed the main sail
Then I tied myself down to stay fast

Straight into the seas, I rode those tall waves
For an hour but it seemed like it lasted all day
Then the seas settled down and the wind fell to ease
So, Sweet Daisy and I sailed away.

Talking To Myself

I talked with myself for an hour today
There was so much that I had to say
I listened quite carefully as my words were intense
So, not to be led astray

The more that I talked, the closer I listened
A plot soon made itself known
When I am the only one willing to hear
Exactly the feelings I own

Sometimes when you're down, you can't depend on another
And there's no answers in books on a shelf
That can give you the peace that you need to hear
So, sometimes I just talk to myself

Sometimes when you listen carefully to yourself
You can spare yourself great pain and sorrow
Be open to hear those things that you fear
And fight for a brighter tomorrow

So, tomorrow again I'll talk with myself
Providing I'm still willing to hear
The wisdom of someone who has seen it before
Someone I hold steadfastly dear.

Talking To Yourself

For those who want to be understood
And those who fight just to be heard
There is nothing useful nor more absurd
Than talking to yourself

People pay no mind to you
When they themselves are going through
Hard times made by things they do
And end up talking to themselves

A stroll alone down lonesome lane
Trying not to go insane
You tell yourself there's more to gain
By talking to yourself

But wisdom does not come to those
Who fail to stop and smell a rose
While in a garden where it grows
They're just talking to themselves

So, upon this very special day
I hope you find that special way
To say the things, you want to say
Without talking to yourself.

Taps

Do they still play taps? Were our sacrifices bound with honor or chains? Will eternal light give way to darkness in the hearts of those forgotten? 'On behalf of a grateful nation' meant something back when they played taps. Does honor serve itself respectfully in the tears of those who bow in taps' embrace? Can we spare time in our hearts for a moment of peace? Do they still play taps?

Telling Tall Tales

He sat in the pub, drinking his ale
And told stories of his youth to the fold
Day after day he spun his tall tales
People obliged him because he was old

In his mind he was dashing and daring
He acted the part as he spoke
With a flare in his voice the excitement seemed real
In his heart a free spirit awoke

But later at night when the pub closed its doors
The spirit would fall back to sleep
Alone on the path in the dark he strolled home
With his head down he would silently weep

His fanciful stories and the dreams he once had
Were all he could bear to his name
So, day after day he repeated himself
And every day it would end up the same.

That World Is Not For Me

I don't belong in a world of hate
I do not understand man's fate
Or why we never can relate
That world is not for me

Our compassion seems to all be fake
When people want what others make
They steal and loot and take, take, take
That world is not for me

Why we cannot live in peace
Why the fighting will never cease
With all the fury that we release
That world is not for me

When people call upon his name
And justify their putrid claim
That they are not the ones to blame
That world is not for me.

The Better Man

I will open up my heart to you
I will bare my very soul
I will walk the walk without the talk
Integrity's my goal
I will not judge my fellow man
My place is not a throne
I will live my life the way I choose
And they can live their own
But in the end, if we sacrifice
The things that we hold dear
For the things we want in life
Our judgement will be clear
So, I will show you who I am
I will stand for what is right
I will not lay down on the ground
Nor hide from that good fight
Judge me if you feel you must
I'm not afraid to lose
The better man will stand alone
Against the wrongful dues.

The Blue Bird and the Comb

Beside her long black hair, it lay
 A comb for which I gave
To her one Summer morning with
 My love for her to save
She woke up to a peaceful sound
 A bluebird on her sill
She closed her eyes went back to sleep
 The comb beside her still
 Later morn she woke again
 The bluebird was not there
The comb beside her it was gone
 And too a lock of hair
The day had passed, and she laid down
 Beside her was no comb
 But on the sill the bluebird made
 With hair, a cozy home
A week had passed then I returned
 My journey drew its end
 But while away had company
 A bird became a friend
 All across the countryside
 For her, my love, I roam
A bluebird gave to me to give
 To her a lovely comb.

The Break You Take

As I take a break from enjoying life
I'll work and create goals
The hands of time continue to turn
To ensure the clock still tolls

It's not until we're in the past
That we will see our loss
How much time we've sacrificed
Beholden to a boss

Priorities will change in time
Happiness is an illusion
The things we can't replace in life
Have no substitution

The best years of your life are here
Do with them as you will
But if you break from enjoying life
You may wake up old and ill.

The Chancellor's Ball

A lovely time was had by all
Who attended the Chancellor's Ball
From the first dance to last
And all through night
Romance had filled the great hall

The veranda was full of star gazing dreamers
Young lovers snuck off to the garden
Where secrets were shared
Among youthful guests
Some came with a scandalous pardon

When the last waltz had ended
And the music had stopped
People filed out in pairs two by two
In the garden was left a mystery to solve
A hustle, a bustle, and one shoe.

The Child In Me

The child in me says throw it
The child in me says run
The child in me believes that
The fun has just begun

The man in me says hold it
The man in me says stay
The man in me believes that
There is a better way

The child in me is fearless
The child in me jumps first
The child in me won't give up
Until the bubble burst

The man in me is cautious
The man in me thinks twice
The man in me continues
To seek out sage advice

The child in me is still here
He returns from time to time
Occasionally I let him out
To keep me in my prime.

The Chosen Few
U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer

Our honor is granted through valor and strength
A commitment to always be true
To the values established by those we admire
Who are the chosen few
As custodians of unquestionable duty, we're charged
With maintaining a sense of décor
Recognized by those above and below
In the chain of command, we work for
To carry ourselves above all reproach
With integrity and uncompromised trust
Because we are bound by more than just faith
Our devotion to truth is a must
To honor those who came before us we say
Our commitment to always be true
Means more to us now than ever before
We are the chosen few.

The Climb

I left the world for an hour or so
Some might call it a dream
A magical place
Where I was in charge
And could change the things that I've seen

People there actually listened to me
As if I had something to say
I said nothing special
Nor said it with charm
But it was nice to finally have it my way

When I awoke my reality was there
To remind me that nothing was right
If I have to run
Away from myself
Just to make it through the night

So, I'll learn to make the changes I need
One small step at a time
And never give up
It's not the top that I need
It's the journey that I need to climb.

The Feather

A feather in my hair they say
Is a badge of honor
It symbolizes things I've done
That make me brave and stronger

A feather in your cap is not
Something to trivialize
For those who wear it in their hat
Know not what makes them wise

Respect and honor go hand in hand
The feather knows the truth
You can wear it like an accessory
But you can't relive your youth

For those who've earned their feathers
Stand tall and full of pride
While hats around you show and tell
The reasons why they hide.

The First Kiss

Be still my heart that beat violent with fury. My labored breath terrifyingly controlled all my senses. With shaking hands, and weakened knees, I felt crippled and yet, destiny comfortably collected my fear. Her approach was casual and calm, her demeanor intimidatingly seductive, and her lips beckoned me closer. Closer I came, my heart was in peril, as it beat at least three times per second. I closed my eyes and held my breath; I shall remember my first kiss as the one that almost killed me.

The Fool We Keep

A longing to live and love resides deep within us. Inside, it roars with excitement and anticipation, but on the outside, it whimpers in frustration. As our desires guide us unwittingly to ruin, the fool we've kept silently hidden awakens and we can no longer keep our secrets. Humility shamelessly scratches our surface as we reluctantly allow truth to alter our dreams.

The Forgotten

Burdens of guilt are cooked into our diet
We prepare meals fit for a king
While peasants lay barren outside castle walls
We feast with the man with the ring
No shame for the greedy, no aid for the poor
The courtyard is happy in dance
The pauper is lucky to walk through the street
Without feeling the end of a lance
Society separates rich from the poor
They separate those with great wealth
They even take umbrage to those in the score
Who live their lives in poor health
Those with the means that do nothing to help
Will one day find that they need
The help from those they've scorned over the years
And the forgotten will rise up and lead.

The Girl in Oshkosh Jeans

The prettiest girl I've ever seen
Was a long, long time ago
Since then, I haven't seen another
Who could match her youthful glow

My memory serves me well these days
I see her in my dreams
She comes to me in troubled times
The girl in Oshkosh jeans

It's funny how life teases you
With feelings you can't control
The prettiest girl I'll never know
Played such an important role

She kept me young at heart through life
Ever looking for a sign
That one day when all's said and done
She'd return and become mine.

The Great Wizard

He honored the student with a challenge to read
 He honored himself the same
He honored those willing to learn and expand
 With a seat at the great wizard's game
One story was said to have pain and much more
 While another would tell of a dream
But neither could capture the heart of the tale
 Till they sat on the great wizard's team
He honored his friends with subtle hints to be sure
 He honored them in so many ways
But today he honors the next inductee
 To a place where the great wizard plays
The teacher came forth and disclosed the façade
 He honored that teacher too
And after the story when rewards have been reaped
 He paid the great wizard his due.

The Greatest Love

The greatest loves create the greatest heartbreaks,
yet without them, we may never know love at all.

So, break my heart if you must,
but leave me with the greatest of memories,
and if only for moment,

fill this heart with the greatest love.

If you're afraid of getting your heart broke
you will never find the greatest love.

I cannot image a greater sadness
than someone afraid of love.

The Grim Reaper

Heavy is the burden we bear for our sins,
the stress strips days from our lives.
The emotional pain is more crippling still
as we gaze into the Grim Reaper's eyes.

While we grasp our last chance for redemption,
will we concede that we squandered our time?
Will we recall all the pain we inflicted,
or will we recall the times we were kind?

The Grim Reaper has always kept schedule,
our names will soon show on his list.
When that time comes, will we be contrite?
Can we defend our right to exist?

Fear not the things we do not know,
or the pains we know are just.
We carry our burdens to give to the reaper
as we turn ourselves back into dust.

The Journey

A struggling day found me sitting alone
In my thoughts I was trapped without hope
Reliving a life in my mind that I lost
Searching for ways I could cope

This world had left me alone here to die
As I contemplated what it was, I lived for
Was I meant to live a long burdensome life
Or was I meant to live for much more

As I fought with myself to understand what went wrong
Why nothing ever seemed to go right
I realized that the harder I tried
The harder it was to fight the good fight

The struggling day ended with me sitting here
Reviewing the choices, I've made
And for a moment in time, I knew what to do
To let go, life was not a crusade

I kept looking for something at the end of the day
That there was something I had to work toward
But it wasn't the end that would determine my fate
It was the journey that was my reward.

The Kraken

Laying on the ocean floor
With bottom feeding creatures
Are layers of sea sediment
And things with frightening features
Like the Kraken or the Giant Squid
Who wait for those who dare
To wander far away from home
Into their watery lair
When the moon at night begins to rise
And the sea begins to swirl
Beware the bump upon the hull
And a sound that'll make blood curl
The screaming of the Kraken
Is said could wake the dead
To all the souls who've perished deep
Fear never left their head
Pray you never meet the beasts
Who live beneath the waves
They have an appetite for sailors
They're what the Kraken crave.

The Last Good Day

I had a good day, once a long time ago
Many days have passed me by since
I remember it made me quite pleased with myself
Not a worry nor care nor expense

A peaceful day, I remember it well
I sat shaded on my porch from the sun
I sipped on my coffee as the afternoon broke
Never thinking it would be my last one

Since then, I would say, time has not treated well
I don't know where the good days have gone
I don't sit on my porch in the shade anymore
That day's now a lost paragon

You never know when your last good day will be
Enjoy each one as your last
One day you'll wake up and realize that
All the good days were left in the past.

The Light of My Life

The light of my life shines the brightest
When the darkness consumes me at night
When the world seems to vanish in shadows
My light gives the gift of sight

My light fights the evil before me
That follows my every move
When the darkness comes calling with conflict
My light shines with something to prove

In this world of good and of evil
Where we walk on the edge of a knife
You save me from drowning in darkness
You are the light of my life.

The Love Note

He wrote a poem to his beloved
 With tears upon his face
He spoke of love and happiness
 And things you can't replace
With devotion deep and promise true
 He spoke honestly from the heart
His dying wish was that they would
 Never ever part
He closed his poem, sealed with a kiss
 And left it at her door
She came home early and read the note
 Then sat upon the floor
 It was worse than she imagined
 More than she bargained for
That fact that he was twelve years old
 And she was twenty-four.

The Mirror

The mirror told of many lies
My beauty had no couth
The aging lines of wisdom knew
All too well the truth

But even as I gazed into
The vessel that held my soul
I knew the value inside out
Perfection was my goal

And though aspired to be my best
I could never live up to
The image looking back at me
It consumed me through and through

The mirror tells me what to see
I can't believe my eyes
What's the point of listening to
A mirror that tells me lies.

The Moon

Alone in the sky always vigilant and true
You light up our path in the night
Against the backdrop of stars and vast space
We trust that your place is just right
Our partner in orbit around a bright star
You give us reason to dream
The tides follow you in and out with each pass
Your influence not too extreme
You keep us in balance, you keep us secure
And it's ironic for all that you do
If we think for a moment, we got it all wrong
Our world revolves around you.

The Path You're On

Our path through life is laden with
Uncertainties and worry
Sometimes people in our life
Act like our judge and jury

Cast aside their arrogance
And self-righteous attitude
Their moral judgement has a flaw
And spares no latitude

Uncertainties are choices made
That separate our fate
It's to each of us to live the life
That we alone relate

And those who challenge the path we're on
Spend too much time away
From their own path to understand
Where their life's gone astray

Focus on the path you're on
Be the captain of your ship
And let the haughty fool's question
Their own wasted trip.

The Peace Within a Tree

I felt the peace within a tree
Slowly flowing through its fragile branches
Reaching upward to the sky in praise
A heavenly breeze rustled through its leaves
And whispered into the wind, its song of glory
Below was a strength unseen by all
Holding steadfast and firm to mother earth
Nurturing the life that grew from it and for a moment
A calm and peaceful awareness overwhelmed my soul
The peace within that tree now resonates within me
I shall never look upon a tree the same.

The Plight of Man

We struggle in the lives we lead
Our strife bears witness to
The plight of man to understand
What we are going through

We convince ourselves we have a plan
To reign in troubled woes
But deep down in our hearts we know
Trouble festers and it grows

We boast that we are capable
The world is ours to lose
Everything that we enjoy
Is that for which we choose

We call upon a lord unknown
Yet we secretly deny
We believe that we are powerful
And can live within a lie

In the end we find ourselves
A judge to our own sin
If we held ourselves accountable
Everyone would win.

The Poet and the Clown

The poet is a clown
Who uses words as their disguise
Whether sadness, pain, or happiness,
They prose with some reprise

A clown of words can show the pain
In everybody's heart
While keeping theirs hid well behind
The pen and far a part

To tell of love the poet writes
That they were once the fool
Who gave their heart to someone else
Who used it like a tool

The truth behind the poet's words
Is seldom what it seems
A deeper meaning lies between
What's left out of their scheme

The more the clown and poet work
The farther away they are
That's how the poet and the clown become
The loneliest by far.

The Poet's Lore

The words of poets who came before
Revive in youth to spread their lore
Of stories told in varied prose
That offer chance to visit those
Who spoke of wisdom far once removed
Now lay at rest, their words improved
A standard shared throughout the years
To captivate the soul with tears
Or speak of love so deeply felt
The reader's heart would surely melt
New poets come along and change
The words they use and rearrange
To tell the story all be the same
With a modern twist and a new name.

The Road

I walked a road that had hard turns
A path through hell I wandered
I ventured from some troubled times
To a place I pondered
Nostalgia kept me company
To comfort all my sorrows
The place I fled and time I've lost
Made way for bright tomorrows
I left behind my troubled past
It was time to start anew
I shall refer to this the time
I battled and I grew
I couldn't carry all the weight
That burdened me of old
I had to make this new story
The greatest ever told
I left behind the baggage and
The things that caused me strife
And focused on the strength in me
To bring me a good life
The road I walked was meant for me
With bumps and though it turned
I couldn't get to where I am
Without the lessons learned.

The Sands of Time

One minute seems to last for hours
As the sands of time will stop
And your last day feels like forever
As you watch the last grains drop

All of your life is on display
Inside the hourglass
When the sand runs out, you'll be no more
As you're laid below the grass

This world you leave can't save you now
No matter how much you've earned
But the sands of time will start again
When the hourglass is turned

To turn the hourglass, you need
Only to accept
That your spirit lives for all of time
It is a mystical concept.

The Sunset

With a gentle breeze brushing upon my face, I looked over the bow to witness the sea glow red. The sun set boldly on the horizon and burnt through the troubled mist to illuminate everything it touched. I was captivated by a calm and peaceful feeling. All I could think of was that I was going home. That sunset changed my perspective. Now, whenever I see a brilliant orange sunset, I am graciously reminded of coming home.

The Trial

A trial is set, the court is in session
Let the spectacle begin
Each side sits with confidence
That it's their side that will win
The lawyers for the prosecution
Are as nasty as they seem
The lawyers for defense are weak
But live far above their means
The Constitution's buried deep
Upon a dusty shelf
While the judge under a robe of shame
Is thinking only of himself
The cameras only show one side
Newspapers spin the facts
Pundits on the networks create
What the prosecution lacks
The smoking guns have disappeared
The evidence is lost
The many lies that have been told
Will come at a great cost
The jury waits with bated breath
For their chance to speak
The people's voice will soon be heard
It is justice that we seek.

The Two O'clock Curse

A mysterious and radiant aura, like Moonlight's divine presence, illuminated a beauty within her and forced me to gaze hypnotically into her eyes. I was captivated by her awe-inspired trance and overwhelmed with desire. The world around me vanished and only she was left to entertain my full and undivided attention. I was sure it was a dream. No one could be so pure, so ravishing, so enchanting, to stop life with a glance yet; there I was, frozen in time's unforgiving embrace. Then as quickly as I was smitten, I woke to the sound of an echo calling in the night, "Last call", and knew I was about to do something stupid.

The Watch

The watch stands silent in the night, looking for hazardous clues and dangers. A mundane task with the greatest of responsibility. The watch is forever aware of potential dangers. In addition to watching, the watch must also listen. Sometimes the voice of the sea rises, or the ship's hull begins to speak. From light on the horizon, machinery, fire, or flood, there are plenty of hazards for the watch to beware. While we recall the watches we've stood, and begin to feel important again, let us not forget the watch that stood silent in the night, while we slept.

The Well

I looked into a well and saw darkness. I was comforted knowing that I was not at the bottom. Had I been at the bottom, looking up into the light, I would have been left with a sense of hopeless despair. The well hadn't changed, but like life, how it looks, depends on what end I'm seeing it from.

The Whistle

The train's whistle alerted me with along blast
As it traveled through town in grand style
It called attention to a world unexplored
That I've dreamt of for a long while

Somewhere on those tracks was where I would end up
From town to town, I would ride
The tracks were calling my name all along
This town was nowhere to hind

The whistle called out, "There's a man on these rails,
And he's travelling the country for free,
Don't stop on the tracks, there's no going back,
To a life that's been hampered and empty"

My freedom to travel and chance to escape
Is all that I've ever dreamt of
The sound of the wheels turning round in my head
Was a rhythm that grew into love

The blast of the whistle still calls out to me
Reminding me there's still places to go
But the whistle is no longer attached to a train
That time's sadly gone don't you know.

The Wonders of the World

In days gone by, I've traveled far
To see the world first-hand
From ocean beaches to jungles thick
Across the desert sand

Cities reach a thousand feet
Into clouds bellowed high
Canyons cross a painted plain
So vast across the sky

Mountains high above the earth
With views beyond compare
Have given me enlightenment
Of that you cannot share

You must see the world yourself
To know of what I speak
And when you've seen it with your own eyes
You'll have nothing left to seek.

The Young Writer

I idly sat beside a tree
And read about a lad
Who had a gift of making verse
But that was all he had

He wrote his stories down in a book
He scribed them with great thought
Believing that one day they'd bring
Him luck if all for naught

He bargained that his tales were shrewd
He chanced that they would shine
Among the many readers' who
Would lean against a pine

He wrote of dreams and doing things
That he has never done
But in his mind, it's just as well
If he could sell just one.

There Is Nothing

There is nothing a good song can say better
Than from the heart of a young sultry lass
Who has beaten the odds and grabbed the brass ring
Forever the good song would last

There is nothing more mysterious
Than a young woman's love or need
Suspicious of her choice in life
Is it a flower or a weed

There has never been a better time
To gather your hopes and dreams
As hard as you think life is right now
Nothing is as hard as it seems.

There Once Was A Land

There once was a land between two great oceans
Where fishermen brought bountiful commerce
And inland the soil was so rich and so fertile
Produce covered the land in great girth

From high in the mountains fresh water flowed down
To valleys below in grand splendor
Between them were plains where wild beasts roamed free
To graze in all of its wonder

There once was a time when all of our blessings
Were cherished and protected with honor
What happened to them and this great land of ours
Is something we can never recover

All we can do now is remember the times
When from ocean to ocean was free
And the land in between was blessed by a god
Who had given this land to thee

Those times are now gone, that land is no more
Replaced by a factory of thieves
We've plundered the graces presented to us
And left us to silently grieve.

This Lamp

My heart will never beat peacefully again
A haunting loneliness prevails over me
Life passes me by, shadows cover my eyes
Your absence shows how great grief can be
The pain reminds me of how precious you were
I can't get you off of my mind
You were the greatest thing to ever happen to me
The love I shall never again find
I sit here alone and dream you're with me
In silence I still hear you say
"Our love is forever and forever we'll be
Together like we are today"
But life took you away and left me alone
On this bench by myself without you
This lamp reminds me that I'll see you again
Someday when this life is through.

This Simple Man

Dancing on a lofty cloud
Through his life without a care
He sees the world in such a way
That no one knows he's there
Hiding in plain sight he paints
A picture of success
And like Renoir he's colorful
But never to excess
Imaginary wonder
Lights his face and simple smile
Comforting and carefree
Marks his manner and his style
He walks ahead with head held high
Never looking at the ground
This simple man has tamed his world
And lets nothing get him down
Always cheerful as he laughs and plays
Like a child with a toy
Ever mindful for the sake
Of other's happiness and joy
The secret to this mystery
Is less difficult than you'd guess
If you let in the negative
You'll end up with a mess.

Time Came for Me

Time came for me while I stood still
 Unfamiliar with protocol
I continued doing what I was doing
 Without reason as I recall
The nearer time approached me here
 The deeper my descent
 Before I knew what was to be
 Time had came and went
 I failed to see it coming
 It left me standing in the rain
 Wondering what was left to do
 Before time would turn to pain
The future came and went with time
 Today is now the past
 Tomorrow will tell a tale of loss
 For a life that went too fast.

Time Traveling Love

If I could go back in time for a day
I'd go back to the day we first met
I'd say something smarter than I did the first time
Something you'd never forget
I'd promise my heart and I'd promise my soul
I'd promise that it must be true
Because I came back in time just to say
How much I really love you.

To My Sons

When you were young, and I was lost
I left and went away
I searched myself and searched the world
To find a place to stay

Apart from you was difficult
It hurt me every day
As time went by the wound sealed shut
But the pain didn't go away

The things unsaid were harder still
To live with every day
I wasn't there to say the things
You needed me to say

I'm sorry for not being there
I failed you at the core
But had I stayed, I think it might
Have hurt you even more

You rose above life's challenges
And persevered it's true
You are the man I never was
I am so proud of you.

To Theresa

Through good days and bad
Through happy and sad
We managed to keep it together
We laughed and we cried
Through it all I've not lied
About my vow to love you forever

Through my toughest days
It was your face that I saw
As I closed my eyes at night
It was for voice that I heard
Whispering into my ear
As you quietly turned out the light

It was your hand on my hand
That reassured me of peace
So, I would have nothing to fear
My tears washed away
Great sorrow and pain
Knowing tomorrow I may not be here

Though my face and my voice
And my hand won't be there
In the days when it's your time to go
Rest assured that my spirit
Will be holding your hand
That's something I pray you will know.

To Sit In The Sun

To sit in the warmth of the afternoon sun
Once more with a book in my hand
Would give me a chance to appreciate life
A little more would make it just grand

The beauty of nature, the songs that we sing
The happiness that we all share
Can never be challenged or taken away
It is magic, it is real, it is there

In closing the book now that I'm near the end
I wish for one more chapter of sun
But that's not how stories come to the truth
They must live as they die on the run

Though my memory will aid me with all my goodbyes
I should have paid close attention
To the middle where I had my choices to make
And to where I had needed intervention.

Tomorrow

One day you will wake with no more tomorrows
You won't know that they will not come
So today needs to be the best it can be
And let love freely roll off your tongue
Don't pass on the chance to tell someone you care
Don't leave them out in the rain
Give to someone who has nothing to give
And take away some of their pain
When that day comes you won't have to be scared
Your path to glory is paved
With all the kind deeds you've done over the years
And all the goodwill that you've saved.

Undesirable Truth

Startling headlines attract unwitting fools
Who do not take the time to think
What seems like sensation is covering crap
Which ultimately will fester and stink

By the time the recipient figures it out
A new headline will grab their eye
They will follow the lead of those who mislead
And will shout, and they'll scream, and they'll cry

As it comes to their right to say what they want
It matters not if they're right or they're wrong
If people are willing to believe anything
Corrupting their mind won't take long

But if an undesirable truth was to be told
And the headline does not catch their eye
The unwitting fool will not get the message
They will simply consider it a lie.

Universal Power

There's a power in the universe
You can feel it in your soul
An overwhelming calm prevails
And leaves you feeling whole
The answer to a question
You know not how to ask
Is answered intuitively
As it takes away your mask
For just moments in a given day
You can feel right in this world
Where everything that's happening
Is opened and unfurled
Your path seems clear, the road is straight
You can forge your path through life
This power in the universe
Can keep for free from strife
Clear your mind, let in the power
Relax and let it go
Allowing peace into your life
Is all you need to know.

Unspoken

Sometimes my mind wanders
And I find it hard to speak
But if I take the time to write
I find I'm quite unique

I can relate with clarity
Unlike my spoken word
To paint a picture with a verse
Is easy so I've heard

So, I shall write my thoughts in poem
I do not wish to speak
For when I do, my thoughts get lost
The message becomes oblique.

Until

She waited anxiously each day
For the postman's pass
Believing that one day he'd leave
Her with a note first class
From her love who went away
To fight for God and King
He was brave and full of dreams
But only seventeen
She waited days on end with hope
That she would get some news
The postman passed her by each day
Saddened by her view
Then one fateful morning brought
The postman to her door
The telegram was not the news
That she had waited for
It said that he was coming home
His duty paid unfair
He gave his all, the lord above
Would take him in his care
The pain and shock too much to bear
As he watched her read the note
A tear rolled down her cheek to meet
A lump within her throat
There were no words to comfort her
There are times that make no sense
Her world had changed, she's all alone
But now without suspense
The last words that he said to her
Before he went away
Were "Until I come home safe to you,
In my heart you'll stay."

Vagabond

As the setting sun drops out of sight
 Too far to wander fair
And darkness falls upon the deck
 I expect to travel where
The glimmer of the moon at night
 Sparkles on the sea
And as I sail into the night
There's nowhere I should be
 A vagabond I must admit
 A stranger to the shore
 With no destiny I roam
 The oceans ever more
Occasionally I'll stop in port
 To rest but not to stay
A dinner and some ale no less
 And then I'm on my way
 I cannot hold myself to be
 A man to settle down
The world's too big and time is short
 My ship's my thorny crown.

Virtue

We see life through filters created by liars
 We alter reality to feed our desires
 We listen to things that we want to hear
We block truth and knowledge because of our fear
We account for the things that bring us reprieve
We ignore all the things that harm our prestige
 We envy those fortunate, gifted, and strong
 We ridicule those who have done us no wrong
Our priorities have faltered we've lost our respect
 We won't get it back lest we stop our neglect
Humanity's future will reflect what we choose
 Our virtue is all that we have left to lose.

Vote Them Out

It's only sanctimoniously they cede
And give in to our demand
'We the people' have the right to live
Free on our own land
The ruling class have other plans
They'll vote themselves a king
And take whatever it is they want
They will take everything
It's for our own good they intervene
Is what it is they say
But they will tax us to the grave
And leave us with no pay
There is one way to stop the theft
We must vote them out
If we can't stop their fleecing ways
We'll have no country there's no doubt.

Walking On Bulkheads

The seas have risen, we're riding high
Beware the pitch and roll
Our ship is agile, sleek, and fast
But small as big ships go

We staggered through the passageways
We walked on the bulkhead
From side to side, the ship was tossed
Our sea legs felt like lead

We tied ourselves into our racks
No dinner for the crew
And for the storm that raged all night
We showed what we could do

We rode that storm and raging seas
Our ship had passed the test
That sailors on tin cans must face
To prove that they're the best.

Warning Signs

Johnny was conflicted, he had problems in life
He struggled to understand
He cried out for help with subtle hints and rare clues
But no one would lend him a hand

People didn't feel comfortable talking with him
Johnny wasn't a priority
They left him alone, he was no part of their life
There were signs they refused to see

He lashed out in anger sometimes for no cause
Sometimes he would just hide away
No one could see that Johnny was hurt
He's nothing but trouble they'd say

One day Johnny felt he had all could take
And jumped off a bridge to the ground
Confused about what they witnessed that day
The people all gathered around

Why would Johnny jump from the bridge?
No one could answer what for
There were warning signs written all over the place
The people just chose to ignore.

Wasteland

Among the creatures undisturbed
The wilderness is free
As so it should be naturally
We should just let it be

But we cannot help ourselves
We have to own it all
We have to have a trophy
To mount upon our wall

We take the land away by force
We claim we have the right
For the benefit of man
To control all within our sight

There is no other species
As arrogant as we
We will eventually erase
All there is to see

Within the wasteland we become
We'll scavenge to exist
Upon destroying our own habitat
We'll check that off our list.

Wayfarer Wannabes

My friends stand steady along the shore
 Wayfarer wannabes
Dreaming they could sail with me
 Across the open seas
Not everyone is blessed to have
 The freedom to explore
 This vast world of wonders
 And far-off distant shores
Good fortune shines on me today
 While I head out from the bay
 Into the sun of western skies
 As friends watch me sail away
To them I say you live just once
 Don't be a wannabe
Step aboard, cast off that line
 Come sail away with me.

We Are Never Pleased

Forever is a long, long time
For that can we agree
Eternity will wait for us
Until we cease to be

Never more will we begin
What cannot ever end
We trade a path that starts off right
For one that will not bend

We complicate a simple life
We're tempted and we're teased
What we can say with certainty
Is that we are never pleased

We find ourselves alone at times
Even when we're in a crowd
And sometimes even whispers
Will make us cry out loud.

We Wish

A wish to want a better life
Is not selfish on our part
We dream to fill the empty spaces
Deep within our heart

We wish for more than we deserve
And settle for much less
It's not a sin to hope for peace
Or love or happiness

We wish to be a better soul
Than we have been to date
We hope tomorrow brings to us
A chance to change our fate

We wish upon a star at night
We wish upon a well
We wish that we shall go to heaven
And not to go to hell.

What Are Poems

Poems are timeless sentiments
They are lyrics for a song
They are a piece of someone's heart
They help us get along
Some poems aim to clarify
The way someone may feel
Others are said to hold a clue
To what makes people heal
As long as we have language
We'll have poems to share a thought
Some essential words in verse we speak
Will not be all for naught
Comforting as praise may be
We know when it is real
The words that matter most of all
Are the ones that make us feel
A poem is said to have a way
Of making people see
A gentler way to go through life
An impassioned way to be.

What Makes Us Great

The desire for liberty was all we knew
We joined together to form anew
A country sprouted and soon it grew
We thought that we were great

Divided along the lines of state
We fought our brothers to decide our fate
And crush a concept that brought us hate
So, we could become great

The world at war was in great need
Of a country strong to take the lead
And save them from an evil seed
That's what made us great

For all our faults we still hold true
That we are judged by what we do
Not for what we say to you
So, do the thing that's great.

What We Need Most

There is so much life for us to ponder
With so much space for us to wander
The little things that make life fonder
Are the things we cherish most

Behold the wonder in the face
Of children who seem out of place
While struggling in the human race
It's their smiles we treasure most

Good things come to those who wait
And when patience offers change of fate
We may want to celebrate
But wisdom helps us most

So, when life makes it hard to win
And you take your shots upon the chin
Just laugh it off and put on a grin
For it is love that we need most.

When

When will love be all we need
When will this heart be free
When will the darkness turn to light
When will good people see

When will we stop the bad things, we do
When will we stop the hate
When will we fix our broken lives
When will it be too late

The fact that we don't understand
The things that make us bad
Is what it is that's wrong with us
That makes it oh so, sad.

When Christmas Comes Around

It was their favorite time of year
When Christmas came around
But since the solitude of age
They're left longing for the sound
Of joy and laughter, songs of praise
And children having fun
Playing games out in the snow
Wishing peace for everyone
But now they sit in their room alone
As they watch the time go by
Christmas will have come and gone
With only memories to rely
On that which gave them humble peace
And joy throughout the years
For those alone at Christmas time
Their nights are filled with tears
Remember those at Christmas time
Whose dreams you used to share
Don't leave them lonely in despair
Reach out and show you care.

When I'm Gone

As I fade and life takes its leave
I'm left alone to wither
Fond memories kept will also fade
My mind will surely dither

I won't remember who I was
I won't remember you
I'll end up being the air you breathe
Or the soul beneath your shoe

What you remember is all that I'll be
Whether good or bad its true
That when I'm gone, I'll be no more
I leave me up to you

So, think of me from time to time
And know that had I stayed
I would have given more of me
Than all that I have made.

Where Has Time Gone

When I look back at years gone by
I wonder where time went
Seems like only yesterday
I bought candy for one cent

My days were spent out in the street
With friends, a stick, and ball
Ice skates and a hockey stick
Tossing nickels to the wall

Now all the games I used to play
Are left back in the past
It is a stark reminder that
Nothing ever lasts

We grow old, we change the game
We wonder what went wrong
We're left to age and contemplate
Where the time has gone.

Where Spirits Are Free

One day I'll live where spirits are free
With no physical burden to bear
Free from the pain and torments of life
I'll finally find peace when I'm there
Though love is a beautiful thing in our lives
A deeper love can be found
In a world without boundaries that keep us apart
In a world where love's all around
This physical world can claim it's rewards
But they're worthless in the here after
The only thing that will matter beyond
Is the love and the joy and the laughter.

Where the Heart Goes

Where the heart goes in the night
When no one else is near
And nothing comforts me except
One lonely, savored tear
The losses I've endured thus far
Hold the pieces that remain
Together tight with solemn might
In hopes that I'll retain
What little love that's saved for me
As silence fills my night
And promises of better times
Are not too far from sight
Where the heart goes in the night
Is a place where I hold dear
Where I can cry myself to sleep
When no one else is near.

Where's Heaven

No one speaks of heaven anymore
Now days, we're told, "They died"
We were once told, "They went to heaven"
Now, only pets go to heaven, people just die
Where do they go? Nowhere
It was much nicer back when we used to go to heaven
Perhaps when parents stop teaching
Their children stop believing
And we lose heaven.

Will She Stay

Solitary days can bring a life of deep sorrow
So, for each sun rising, a ray of hope I shall borrow
 Before I fall, I shall trade them all in
For one day in a hundred that I believe I can win
 The heart of my passion, the love of my life
A woman who swore she would not be a wife
 But for each ray of hope, I save in my heart
 Her position on love I feel she may part
When one loves another not to share in the same
Is why fools and sad lovers might call it a game
And maybe I'm wrong, she may never love me
At least to her favor my love would be free
 My love for her is a great gamble for me
 Because it includes her freedom to be
 Alone if she wishes or together, I pray
 It's her choice to go or her choice to stay.

Win or Lose

Are you doomed to be damned
To the depths of regret
For not being the man, you once were
Have you given up on dreams
And accepted defeat
Will your demons meet fate and concur

Are you willing to give up
All that you wanted to do
And become what they want you to be
Do you have the strength
To stand up to the crowd
And do what you must to be free

Sooner or later
You must make a clear choice
The time will come you must choose
Will you stand up to others
And face off with the crowd
You must win as yourself or you lose.

Winners

The present will always be present
The past we will never forget
The future is meant for the winners
Not for losers with all their regret

The loser believes that they're beaten
The winner knows how to succeed
As long as there's chance to pull out a win
The winner will never concede

Losers cast doubt then make an excuse
As they practice to fail in the end
But winners keep fighting even when they're behind
To quit is too much to defend

Look for the winners to rise to the top
When life knocks them down to the ground
They get back on their feet again
And show others how winners are found.

Wishes and Wants

All that we can see
And all that we can hear
Are but wishes and wants
To what we hold dear
To touch but not feel
Is truth for the man
Who doesn't do well
But knows that he can.

With No Regret

His day was filled with many pains
Disappointment, his only friend
Rage and anger controlled his walk
Through streets that never end

If only he could find some peace
Some love or something good
But something mean or provocative
Was all he understood

Where was all the happiness
That people talked about
All he saw was loneliness
Confusion and self-doubt

Then one day, to his surprise
He heard an angel's voice
A peaceful calm befell his soul
He started to rejoice

The anger and resentment left
Replaced with forgiveness
The kind you find when you realize
You have the power to bless

The smallest things can bring great joy
It's not the things you get
But what you give that changes you
And leaves you with no regret.

Words To Live By

Words to live by change over time.
When you're young you
"Have your whole life ahead of you"
When you get older you
"Err on the side of caution"
Later in life you
"Treat each day as if it were your last"
Now days I no longer have words to live by,
I have words to live for:

Another sun has risen
Another moon has set
Another day I get to say
I am not done quit yet.

Worn-Out Shoes

I've wandered long in worn-out shoes
I've traveled far and wide
Wherever I may go in life
There is no place to hide

I've watched the seas roll in and out
Sun rises and sun sets
I've witnessed the moon disappear
These shoes have no regrets

Whatever fate has planned for me
Will find me waiting here
In my worn-out shoes I'll play
The songs of yester year

My travels may have kept me away
From that I had run from
Upon return, I'll accept my fate
And I shall overcome

So, as I walk my final road
In my tattered worn-out shoes
I'll hum a tune for the lonely souls
Who loved to sing the blues.

You

You light up my darkness with your smile
Your soft touch gently comforts me
When I look deeply into your eyes
I find the strength to be
Someone whom you can rely on
Someone you can look up to
Someone who will tow the line
And fight the world for you
You gave my life a purpose
A reason to exist
Before you I was nothing
Now you are all there is.

Young Lovers and Dreamers

Young dreamers believing in fairly tales
Hold fast to love at first sight
To capture the heart of a fair maiden
When they've bravely fought the good fight

They dream of conquering kingdoms
They dream all their wishes came true
Believing that all will turn out in the end
Is what young lovers and dreamers do

Lost in the dreams they pursue with blind faith
That good would prevail over evil
Only to find that young lovers get old
Before love can conquer freewill

Eventually young dreamers will lay down their sword
That they used to slay dragons in dreams
And step over the cliff with eyes open wide
As their love wasn't all that it seemed.

Young Mothers

She kissed his cheek softly like a feather upon his face. A silence prevailed and the babe went back to sleep. No comfort compares to a mother's love, and with all of her joy, she smiled with elation. The next day, the child cried out in the night again. This time a kiss would not comfort him. Distress was at hand, and it confused the young mother. Why does her love fail her now? The new mother would find that love is a gift she would acquire through responsible care, and the joys would be badges she would earn from the pain of saying goodbye to her own vanishing childhood.