

there was a decorated general with  
a heart of gold, that likened him to  
all the stories he told  
of past battles, won and lost, and  
legends of old a seasoned veteran in  
his own time

on the battlefield, he gained  
respectful fame with many medals  
of bravery and stripes to his name  
he grew a beard as soon as he could  
to cover the scars on his face  
and always urged his men on

but on the eve of a great battle  
with the infantry in dream  
the old general tossed in his sleep  
and wrestled with its meaning  
he awoke from the night  
just to tell what he had seen  
and walked slowly out of his tent

all the men held tall with their  
 chests in the air, with courage in  
their blood and a fire in their stare  
it was a grey morning and they all  
wondered how they would fare  
till the old general told them to go home

[CHORUS:]

He said: I have seen the others  
and I have discovered  
that this fight is not worth fighting  
I have seen their mothers  
and I will no other  
to follow me where I'm going

So, take a shower, shine your shoes  
you got no time to lose  
you are young men you must be living  
Take a shower, shine your shoes  
you got no time to lose  
you are young men you must be living  
go now you are forgiven

but the men stood fast with their  
guns on their shoulders not knowing  
what to do with the contradicting orders  
the general said he would do his own  
duty but would extend it no further  
the men could go as they pleased

but not a man moved, their eyes gazed straight ahead  
till one by one  
they stepped back and not a word was said  
and the old general was left with his  
own words echoing in his head

he then prepared to fight

[CHORUS]

go now you are forgiven