

Anthem

By Be Astengo

Oh! say can you see?

All the young people
Boys and girls really
Believers in Freedom
In God and county
Smooth skinned faces
Eyes bright and searching
For meaning or adventure
The ads say
“Warriors Wanted”
“Do you have what it takes?”
It’s a challenge
It’s a game

Those who have picked up the gauntlet
And worked the front lines
By the dawn’s early light
Have seen blood and bodies
Broken bones, severed limb
Morsels of exploded corpses
Lands and
Peoples destroyed

What so proudly we hailed
Our country, our freedom
The service of our youth
Men and women
Boys and girls really
Who have done our bidding
Fought in the wars
We have waged
Serves our purposes
For better?
For worse?

By the twilight’s last gleaming
They come back
Older, bruised
Some broken
Pock marked souls
Eyes dulled
Recorded memories

Playing again and again
Like bad movies.

Broad backed our bright stars
Through perilous nights
Struggle
Brave soldiers traumatized
Remembering
Over ramparts they went
Gallantly
Their mission
To defend...
Bombs bursting in air
On the road
Beside them
Under their vehicle

They gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there
Tattered and torn
The banner yet waved
Rags blowing in the dust
Of exploded mortars

In the land of the free
The brave are home
Some of them...
They return
With feelings
With memories
Can we relate?

Having fought
Our wars
Having served
Our ideals?
Our values?
Their memories
Serve and
They serve and
They serve...
They are the brave...