

# The Captain

Leonard Cohen

Now the Captain called me to his bed  
He fumbled for my hand  
"Take these silver bars" he said  
"I'm giving you command""Command of what, there's no one here  
There's only you and me  
All the rest are dead or in retreat  
Or with the enemy""Complain, complain, that's all you've done  
Ever since we lost  
If it's not the Crucifixion  
Then it's the Holocaust""May Christ have mercy on your soul  
For making such a joke  
Amid these hearts that burn like coal  
And the flesh that rose like smoke""I know that you have suffered, lad  
But suffer this awhile  
Whatever makes a soldier sad  
Will make a killer smile""I'm leaving, Captain, I must go  
There's blood upon your hand  
But tell me, Captain, if you know  
Of a decent place to stand""There is no decent place to stand  
In a massacre  
But if a woman take your hand  
Go and stand with her""I left a wife in Tennessee  
And a baby in Saigon  
I risked my life, but not to hear  
Some country-western song""Ah, but if you cannot raise your love  
To a very high degree  
Then you're just the man I've been thinking of  
So come and stand with me""Your standing days are done", I cried  
"You'll rally me no more  
I don't even know what side  
We fought on, or what for""I'm on the side that's always lost  
Against the side of Heaven  
I'm on the side of Snake-eyes tossed  
Against the side of Seven""And I've read the Bill of Human Rights  
And some of it was true  
But there wasn't any burden left  
So I'm laying it on you" Now the Captain he was dying  
But the Captain wasn't hurt  
The silver bars were in my hand

Pinned them to my shirt

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