



The Gap

Andrew R. Jones

I will no longer ride this wagon,
This wagon of bitterness, hatred, contempt
This wagon of, "You don't rate"
"You don't know"
"You haven't been there"
Pulling a chain increasing the gap
"Us" and "Them"
Warriors and Civilians
I will no longer ride this wagon

I have exited in motion
Tucked and rolled
Busted and bruised

I stand tall, brush the dirt
Fresh blood dripping
I stand tall and step
Fresh tears falling

Won't follow what I don't believe
Won't follow those who cannot see
I will lead in a new direction
I will lead to Victory in my mission

Standing at the edge of the gap
In the distance they scream
They cry
They pray
Wanting to help, not knowing a way
Questions unanswered until now
How will they know if we don't tell?
It's up to us to show them our Hell

With love in my heart
I grasp my rope of faith
Cast it to the other side
I call out for The Lord's strength:

Allow this rope to travel the divide
To be received with Your blessing
On the other side
Bring us together, Warrior and Civilians
For no matter the title, we are all Your children



We are at War

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The enemy unseen
Makes no effort to hide
Attacks in our sleep
By day, walks beside

Whispering rusty blades of self-doubt
“Failure,”
“Not good enough,”
“Freak,”
“Loser,”
“It’s all your fault.”

Each an infected slash
Along the armor of our souls
Spreading sickness
Patient while taking its toll

Pouring alcohol on our wounds
Convinced of salvation
Converted to tears from our hearts
Convinced of damnation

Shrieks of pain mistaken for
Screams of anger
How do we fight this enemy?
This invisible danger?

Do you really want to know?
Are you ready to find out?
I’ll tell you because I’ve been there
I’ll tell you because I’m fighting that bout

Engage your mind
Before engaging your enemy
Thaw the icy wall around your heart
Allow the light to fill voids of dark.
SCREAM rebuttals to the whispers
“I AM GOOD ENOUGH,”
“I AM NOT A FAILURE,”
“I HAVE A RIGHT TO HEAL,”
“I DID MY BEST,”
“I AM A WARRIOR.”

We have responsibilities to ourselves
To push forward without fear
To live on despite the tears
To fight this war until the fog clears

We have responsibilities to our fallen
To push forward in their honor



To live on with smiles and laughter
To fight this war because they matter

We have responsibilities to our brothers and sisters
To push forward motivating each other
To live on as an example to inspire
To fight this war with undying desire

We have a responsibility to our loved ones
To push forward along our journey to heal
To live on no matter the struggle, make that deal
To fight this war with love, honor and no Achilles' heal

The responsibility is ours
No blame to disperse
It's time to come home Warriors
Take initiative to heal before it gets worse