

## THE FINAL INSPECTION

He checked his shoes for shining  
They are, just brightly as his brass

Step forward now soldier, now,  
How shall I deal with you ?  
Have you always turned the other cheek ?  
To my church have you been true ?

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,  
“ No, Lord, I guess I ain’t “  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can’t always be a saint.  
I took an oath to defend others,  
And always care for my comrades and brothers.

I have had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough,  
And sometimes I’ve been violent,  
Because the world is sometimes rough.  
I’ve had to fight and even kill,  
Lord, I know that’s not your will.

Lord, I never took a penny,  
That wasn’t mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.  
My mission was to protect my country, so dear,  
It was not about the money  
It was sworn duty, and my career.

I never passed up a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear,  
And sometimes, God please, forgive me,  
I’ve wept some unmanly tears.

I know I don’t deserve a place,  
Among the good people here.

**Some of them didn't want me around,  
Except in times to calm their fears.**

**You died for me, and offered grace,  
I would have gladly taken your place.  
So, if you've got room for me here, Lord,  
It does not have to be very grand.  
I never expected, or had too much,  
So if you don't, I'll understand.**

**Then there was silence all around the throne,  
Where all the saints had often trod,  
As the soldier waited, at attention, straight and tall  
For the judgment of our God.**

**Step forward now, you soldier servant, came a mighty voice  
Stand straight now, you saint, you've completed your duties well.  
You will walk peacefully, with honor, on heaven's streets,  
"For you've done your time in Hell."**

**God looked at the soldier with a twinkle in his eye,  
Then with a tear he said "to all who serve; I am semper fi  
He has decreed that a good soldier will never die,  
He will be at home in heaven, with God, and glory in the sky**

**Dedicated To All Who Have Served and are Serving.  
You Will Never Be Forgotten.  
A Person is Never Gone until the Memories are.  
It is written.**

**American Veterans Traveling Tribute; AVTT.org**