

“A Soldier's Woes - An Elegy”

O everlasting God! Have mercy!
I have sinned much, but it needn't be so
That when I was at sea, crushed by their grip,
That when I was snared, scarred, and scorched by my
foes, That when fear choked my heart, and my faith
grew cold You took her from me, the light of my
soul!

O almighty God! Please understand!
The soft flesh of her hands, how they made me
whole. When she stood before me in her velvet
dress,
Her lips ripe and sweet, her eyes like fresh
coal, Her skin pure and bright, her hair a
stream of gold. She was an angel, perfect, the
light of my soul!

O gracious God! Hear my prayer!
Before I departed, and left her alone
I told her: “My darling, I pray the Lord keep me
safe From all danger, then I can kiss you so
When I return.” Her heart somber, an oath she
swore: “I'll be waiting, o light of my soul!”

But dear God! The one who hears all prayers!
When I came home, to my deepest woes,
My girl is gone! Your Angel of Death,
His mighty scythe struck her lonesome heart, oh the
sorrow And the grief and anguish! Here she lies, her
grave stone cold. You took her from me, the light of my
soul!

O loving God! I know my sins are grave:
I have shot, killed. I have lunged at men's throats
Like a hellhound on its prey. Indeed I am the devil's
child. But why her? Why? She was an angel!
Her light radiant, she casts her warm glow
Cast away my darkness, the light of my soul!

O God! Forsake me!
End my suffering, and let thy fiends take me down
below Where no angels set foot, where the devil
reigns For without her, I am without hope
In love, in life, in the kingdom above,
For what is life without her, the light of my soul!