

## Joan Baez

# "I Saw The Vision Of Armies"

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I saw the vision of armies  
And I saw, as in noiseless dreams, hundreds of battle  
flags  
Borne through the smoke of the battles  
And pierced with missiles, I saw them

And carried, hither and yon through the smoke, and  
torn and bloody  
And at last but a few shreds of the flags left on the  
staffs  
And all in silence  
And the staffs all splintered and broken

I saw battle corpses, myriads of them  
And the white skeletons of young men, I saw them  
I saw the debris and debris of all dead soldiers  
But I saw they were not as was thought

They themselves were fully at rest, they suffered not  
The living remained and suffered, the mother suffered  
And the wife and the child, and the musing comrade  
suffered  
And the armies that remained suffered

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