Old 97's "You Were Born To Be In Battle"

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It's the spring of your time, And the time has come. The open road receives you. Won't you roll to a stop, Won't you gaze at the drop And the awful miles below you?

Take care where you step
Don't you know that it's death
And life and love you straddle?
Stay right if you can,
Oh you poor old man.
You were born to be in battle.

In the summer you'll find
That your road runs aside
A tangled man-made thicket.
Take care you don't lean
Dip your toe in the stream
That sweeps away the wicked.

Survey all you see
'Cause there's still time to leave
The briar and the bramble.
Stay right if you can,
Oh you poor old man.
You were born to be in battle.

In the fall of your time,

You're astounded to find So much is now behind you. With kids of your own You'll be scared, for you know Just what the dark can undo.

Tell them what I've told you In your days of youth: Watch well with whom you travel. Stay right if you can, Oh you poor old man. You were born to be in battle. In the winter of life, You'll be asked for your light. Lay down all forts. Surrender. And all that is you That is precious and true Is the awful price you'll tender.

And I will have gone,
But I'll long for ya son.
Don't tarry there; don't amble.
Stay right if you can,
Oh you poor old man.
You were born to be in battle.

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