

Patty Smith

"Gung Ho"

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On a field of red one gold star
Raised above his head
Raised above his head
He was not like any other
He was just like any other
And the song they bled
Was a hymn to him
Awake my little one
The seed of revolution
Sewn in the sleeve
Of cloth humbly worn
Where others are adorned

Above the northern plain
The great birds fly
With great wings
Over the paddy fields
And the people kneel
And the men they toil
Yet not for their own
And the children are hungry
And the wheel groans
There before a grass hut
A young boy stood
His mother lay dead
His sisters cried for bread
And within his young heart
The seed of revolution sewn
In cloth humbly worn
While others are adorned

And he grew into a man
Not like any other
Just like any other
One small man
A beard the color of rice
A face the color of tea
Who shared the misery
Of other men in chains
With shackles on his feet
Escaped the guillotine

Who fought against
Colonialism imperialism
Who remained awake
While others slept
Who penned like Jefferson
Let independence ring
And the cart of justice turns
Slow and bitterly
And the people were crying
Plant that seed that seed
And they crawled on their bellies

Beneath the giant beast
And filled the carts with bodies
Where once had been their crops

And the great birds swarmSpread their wings overhead
And his mother deadAnd the typhoons and the rain
The jungles in flames
And the orange sun
None could be more beautifulThan Vietnam
Nothing was more beautifulThan Vietnam

And his heart stopped beating
And the wheel kept turningAnd the words he bled
Were a hymn to them
I have served the whole peopleI have served my whole
country
And as I leave this worldMay you suffer union
And my great affectionLimitless as skyFilled with
golden stars

The question is raised
Raised above his head
Was he of his word
Was he a good man
For his image fills the southern heart
With none but bitterness

And the people keep crying
And the men keep dyingAnd it's so beautifulSo
beautiful
Give me one more turnGive me one more turn
One more turn of the wheel
One more revolution
One more turn of the wheel

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