

Al Stewart

"The coldest winter in memory"

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The coldest winter in memory was 1709
The sea froze off the coast of France all along the
Neptune line
By the lost town of Dunwich the shore was washed
away
They say you hear the church bells still as they toll
beneath the waves

Come all you earthly princes, wheresoever you may be
From the Sun King in the court of France to the Czar in
Muscovy
Take heed of Charles of Sweden, the Lion of the North,
On the cracked earth of summer with his army he goes
forth

Guardian angels wherever you may be,
reach down and keep my soul for me

I was there amongst that number, I heard the trumpets
strain
I saw the host of banners spread across the Polish plain
Those who stood against us, they soon were swept
away
They may have the numbers but it's Charles shall have
the day

We cut our way through forests, crossed on frozen
streams
They fell away before us like a murmur in a dream
And they burned the land around us as snow was
closing in
And the arms of winter took us as we fired against the
wind

Guardian angels wherever you may be,
reach down and keep my soul for me

Through all the courts of Europe there's a rumor from
the East
The kings have come to battle and it's Charles who's
known defeat

They'll shake their heads and wonder at how this came
to be
But it's nights without a shelter that have made an end
for me

Now Charles is fled to Turkey, left his men afar
And they'll be marched through Moscow now as
prisoners of the Czar
And had I but known last summer what I know
understand
I'd have never set my foot inside this bleak and bitter
land

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reach down and keep my soul for me

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