

# Bound Unbound

A Collection of 12+12 poems

Roger Hammer



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# **Bound**

**Lies**

**If Love**

**Two by two**

**Two Mountaintops**

**Walls and Bridges**

**Never Going Away**

**Where is Your Heart**

**Little-known Locations**

**The Future's Not Gonna Like Us**

**Walking Through Light and Dark**

**What Will You Do in the Next Civil War**

**Unexpected Unexplained Unbelievable**

## Lies

Lie. Lie again

Lie under oath

Lie about lying

Keep on lying

Get others to lie

Get others to lie again

Others lie under oath

Everyone lies about lying

Keep on lying

Lie when you know it's a lie

The lie is more than just a lie

There's nothing there but the lie

The lie has a life of its own

The lie lives its own lie

The lie even lies about living

Time for the lies to die

## **If Love**

If love would show its face, it looks like the shining Sun  
If love must turn to anger, it's gone when storms are done

If love is ever-seeing, its eyes see me and you  
If love has helpful hands, they're there in what we do

If love could run on feet, they move at the speed of light  
If love would calm a day, it turns to quiet night

If love is strong and wide, it's Earth beneath our feet  
If love is full of living, it's in the food we eat

If love has a special day, it's every single one  
If love needs a calendar, its days are never done

If love is not tied down, we are free just like the dove  
Together, we have wings for flying high above

If love is not named god, we'd still know truth and more  
People without love, please stop making war

## Two By Two

With our newborn legs we don't know how to use

Kicking leads to crawling then we start to cruise

After many months of practice we finally stand upright

Walking leads to running till we race on through the night

Growing tired of trying to be faster than everyone around

Rather run together with a special one we've found

A wonderful way to travel since when you have a friend

You move with strength of four legs not just a pair of one

Helping each other always until one can run no more

Missing all the strength two pair had brought before

The story wraps around, back to when we were born

Paired now with all the running we have to look back on

## **Two Mountaintops**

Two mountaintops disagreed  
Forcing the lands beneath them to follow their hateful lead  
Vanity blinding the two from seeing those down there  
Are all made of the selfsame rocks as they are.

Strength grows power up from a sturdy base  
Never enabling a narrow peak above  
So what should truly be taking place  
Is not the fight of mountain against mountain.

The fight should be led instead by the bases  
Against their own hateful, shallow peaks on top  
Until there is no more coercion to kill  
Only solidly loving hills from bottom on up.

## **Walls and Bridges**

Walls everywhere keep us from bridging  
It's walls that try to block us bridging and mixing  
Some of them are so low they lie down as you go  
Others are so tall we can't ignore them any more

Walls! No walls!  
No walls here any more  
Build bridges over there then come on over here  
Bridges everywhere show where we can go

Walls everywhere keep us from bridging  
It's the walls that try to stop us bridging and mixing  
Some of them are so weak they fall down if you speak  
Others are so thin you'll easily push them in

Walls  
No walls  
Bridges everywhere  
Show where we can go

## Never Going Away

Born with filthy riches, he never had enough  
And now we have to drink from his dirty empty cup

There' so much more that we all could say  
Looks like he's here to stay – will he ever go away?

Lied about another reelected twice who was a true American  
But never paid the price and will never go away

Took help from foreign enemies gladly with a wink  
Tricking all the millions who never even blink

Used our hard-earned money buying dirt for dirty lies  
Never helping any one and still he going free and will never go away

America stood for freedom. The vote was all we had  
Until the lies unending that will never go away

When he loses he only whines and cries. When he's wrong he only whines and lies.  
I cant believe this is going on right before my eyes. Is everybody blind?

Like the infernal devil trying to tempt the Lord  
Like 6am early Monday morn

Like the painful hangover that keeps on hanging on  
So sad to have to say it: He'll never go away.

## **Where is your heart**

You have your money and all your guns  
You have your good book and think you're done  
Believe the lies, make fun of truth  
What is the difference? What have you got to lose?

Sweet as honey you say you do your part  
Really not so sunny - where is your heart?

You love your country so much it shows  
You're ready to die for it everybody knows  
But on the inside what makes you tick?  
Is it patriot or hatriot? Take your honest pick.

Sweet as honey you say you do your part  
Really not so sunny - where is your heart?

We hold these truths to be self-evident,  
that all men are created equal,  
that they are endowed by their Creator  
with certain unalienable rights.

That among these are  
Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness  
To make these all reality  
Where is your heart?

## Little-known Locations

*Falling* down a murky hillside  
Finding no help around there in the fog  
I had no choice but to stumble along

*Walking* by a bubbling stream  
She seemed to sing to me but  
In languages I did not understand

*Leaning* tiredly against a towering tree  
Comforted by its age and strength  
Confident steps grew within me

*Discovering* a large open field, I sat quietly for a moment  
Not certain where its ends would be  
But realizing there is so much more to see

*Jumping* with joy across that field  
I passed by the tree, stream, and hillside  
All propelling me to my next location

*Flying* above it all, now I clearly know  
It is not important where you stop  
Only connect with where you go

## **The Future's Not Gonna Like Us**

For all we've done  
Look in the mirror  
Are you the one  
Who took for granted  
We could go on  
Ignoring our Mother  
Earth we live upon

## **Walking Through Light and Dark**

Saw the shining light till darkness had to come  
Made my music - wrong kind cause so far it's never been done  
Got sensitive to many others and beaten by a few  
Got tougher but got told to be nice that's what you do

One foot down

Made art in the dark nobody saw the color burst  
Said that I would work they said no you pay us first  
Let myself get old but being young was so much better  
Didn't gain no weight or lose it either what's it matter

Two feet down

Never stay the same or plan to change to something other  
All good in here but inside out is such a struggle  
Tell the world you don't know or care what it's all about  
Gonna keep on walking down this road smiling - like it or not

T

Ten toes down

Say hi if you want, I'll gladly greet you on the street  
If not I'll surely meet you in the days of final heat  
Gonna keep on walking down this road smiling like it or not  
Made it through both light and dark - now's no time to stop

One foot down, two feet down, ten toes down, all up from here

## **What Will You Do in the Next Civil War**

What will you do in the next civil war?

Will you say grey is better than blue?

Will you say hate before you give love a chance?

Will you shoot first and ask questions never?

Now I'm not saying to argue with a fool

As saying goes, that proves there are two.

If there's no common ground, swim to an island.

If there's nothing but water, swim all around.

The ends of the circle always will meet

It won't be the center but will still be complete.

Take the war out of civil leave it right there

Makin a nation that's civil even if it's a dare

Do I ask you or do I tell you?

Do I tell you or do you ask me?

Can we both ask a little and tell a whole lot

To come to an agreement without firing a shot?

What makes you are some kind of supreme?

When truthfully it shows you're not even a human being.

## Unexpected Unexplained Unbelievable

Step into the unknown  
taste what it is like  
don't keep running backwards  
take a bite of life.

When you're feeling locked down  
pick up any key  
keep on trying them  
until you're finally free.

Now is not forever  
forever is never now  
soon can not be never  
wish I could tell you how.

Here's what I've learned about  
things that come to pass:  
respect the unexpected,  
hope what's next will last.

Unexpected  
unexplained  
unbelievable  
bring the good to life again.

# **Unbound**

**Down for the Second Time**

**Is Anybody Listening?**

**A New Kind of Army**

**Six Winter Songs**

**No Name No War**

**Three's a Charm**

**Talk About Love**

**Cloud Collector**

**Not a Template**

**Two Stairs**

**Possible**

**Play On**

## **Down for the Second Time**

We had a pretty good run since 1776

Shining in the sun

No more kings, dictators here we all were free

Is it now undone?

Yes we know we had it pretty good welcoming in new faces

Like we said we would

But gasping now for air like just a few short years ago

Not knowing better though we surely could

Down for the second time

Don't count three or four

Down for the second time

Can't take it any more

## **Is Anybody Listening?**

Mother earth cries out with fire and loss of life  
The wise ones say we need to change and get it right  
The future is written clearly across the smoky sky  
Is anybody listening? Does anybody hear?

I've sung about the trails and trees that touch the sky  
Connected to our rivers flowing quietly nearby  
Asked to share the light from here to over there  
Is anybody listening? Does anybody care?

When the truth is twisted to help a needless few  
The common good is tortured - tragic for me and you  
It isn't new or novel, you've read it all before  
Is anybody listening? Does anybody dare?

You may not miss the glaciers that fell into the sea  
Forests of all kinds that burn so endlessly  
You may not have noticed but the lobster pot is hot  
And we're the ones just cooking while they say we're not.

## **A New Kind of Army**

Not hating not breaking not berating not taking away

Not wimps not queers just normal peeps not being fooled by fear

Standing up staying strong, powerful as the day is long

Just the spring of new kind of winning, starting with singing to bring a new beginning

Take your guns and eat 'em

Take your tanks, retreat 'em

Take your bombs, we don't need 'em

Bring back the folks you've starved and feed 'em

We're a new air force for cleaner air

New kind of navy for the water that we share

New kind of army for the Earth for which we care

New kind of marines making peace everywhere

## Six Winter Songs

### Heat Beater

Feeling too warm? A cold hand is coming to town.  
Too much fun in the Sun ? A chilling change turns you around.  
Light of day is growing dimmer  
Welcome to your new friend: Winter

### Problem Solved

Try to make a man out of raking leaves: sorry, but a pile is all it gives.  
Making a snowman is much more fun, like the song says, Frosty danced around.  
Nothing to do and no place to go?  
Make a snowball, give it a throw.

### This Way

Summer fall winter spring - Spring summer fall winter  
Fall winter spring summer - Winter spring summer fall  
Never ever out of order  
Every one is one for all

### Over so Soon?

Who comes first makes no matter, no first-come-season in a circle  
Days will change just like the weather whispering Number One is Winter  
Welcome Spring when she comes again  
Appreciate her after where we've been

### Winter Welcome

Winds will surely blow - skies will bring us snow  
Bells will soon be ringing - we will soon be singing  
Cozy by the fire  
Lifting spirits higher

### Magic

Freeze and thaw, ice from water, winter lets us *walk* on water  
Dance and ski, skate and board, miracle of seasons told  
Did we mention Holidays?  
Decorations! Lights! Smiling faces!

### Winter and on to Spring.

## **No Name, No War**

If god has a face it looks like the shining Sun.  
If god has a body it lives in everyone

If god has arms they are holding me and you  
If god has hands they touch everything we do

If god has feet they move at the speed of light  
If god wears clothes, don't look, they shine so bright

If god has eyes to see they're seeing you and me  
If god is the provider give thanks for food we eat

If god is air and water they make the raining cloud  
If god is earth and fire our seasons sing it loud

if god is truly love look right beneath our feet  
If god has any friends it's everyone we meet

If god has special days they are every single one  
If god observes a calendar its days are never done

If god writes books there are many we can choose  
If god writes rules they are up to us to use

Words god, allah or yahweh will not replace the dove  
Upon their silent wings they fly us high above

No names or many we still know truth and more  
To people screaming God: please stop making war

## Three's a Charm

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A green plant is a radio tuned to light  
Eat at a leaf and you can shine it back  
Playing music to the Sun

..

Your best view of the sky above  
Is when you are down  
Flat on your back

...

I left a trail of my footsteps behind me in the sand  
Waves came in and washed them away  
Now I know my legacy lies ahead of me

## Talk about Love

If you think people say exactly what they mean

More like they mean what they never really say

Has it been any other way? Or just more like that today?

If you don't know where you going or where you've ever been

You're not alone in any crowd there on the street

Same with everyone you meet and everyone you greet

Do something for someone don't just tell them what to do

Pick up your mess, do it all your self

Talk about love, talk about us

The ones doing all the talking have no story to tell

Just the same old thing, you know just why they're mean

Addicted to a screen with nothing in between

## Cloud Collector

Waited for the sun but clouds were too much fun.

They share the sky together, the more the fun the merrier.

Sun is bright and sky is blue, but every cloud is different; I got know them too.

You're nothing firm to hang a hat on, I see you now but soon you're gone

Silent billows come and go, that's all you really need to know

No matter what you do up there you pass the day without a care

I've seen you all before,

Seen you come and go

I've seen you when it rains, then do it all again

I've seen you everywhere,

Seen you without end it seems

Here, there and in between, I see you in my dreams

## **Not a template**

When a poet looks at an empty page  
blank computer screen or the back of his eyes,  
the beauty of the open space is beyond inviting.

Opportunities and challenges reach out with no easy escape:  
no lines to fill in, boxes to check, or menus to pull down.  
Skies have no limit. Universes are infinite. Words are endless.

Results could be pretty or angry, nice or vindictive,  
anything between the extremes of possibility  
and bare banality of just being alive.

Colorful phrases may sing of rainbows or complain about pains  
Talk about hope or try to explain dreams  
Offering some hope to others far or near.

The once-open space becomes crowded with humanity  
whether writing with pen and paper or tapping on a keyboard,  
like chiseling out of stone, lasting there for years.

Poetry is not a template but an invitation to create.  
There, I've interfered with the beauty of a once blank page  
Accepting the invitation like a critter takes the bait.

## Two Stairs

You see two sets of stairways right in front of you.

They both look quite compelling; which one will you choose?

One goes up as high as you can see

It brings you close together with everything that could be

You take it or you leave it but it won't leave you there.

It will always take you higher if you take the dare.

You see two sets of stairways right in front of you.

They both look quite compelling; which one will you choose?

The other steps are easy, always going down.

Can take them without thinking they'll always be around,

But if you choose to go there, you'll never get back up

You'll lose what you were given and hold an empty cup.

One goes up, one goes down, one will fill you up, the other will be gone.

Take your pick: choose the stairs going up.

## Possible

High above, the clouds are making shadows  
Reaching down to Earth from highest sky  
We wake and breathe, that's how it goes

Sunlight makes it POSSIBLE

While trees are casting out their tall reflection  
Across the lake to see down here below  
A picture of perpetual perfection

Water makes it POSSIBLE

Day is going down as night takes over  
Drawing us to darkness till the dawn  
Revealing all the stars we've never seen before

Heaven makes it POSSIBLE

Looking down from all the stars above  
A special one is shining just for you  
That one is meant for only you my love

Only you make everything POSSIBLE

## **Play On**

When the world is slinging dirt  
Walk among the flowers growing  
When the air is full of lies  
Shout the truth that you are knowing

Play on

When the tone is dark and hateful  
Smile brightly and be more grateful

Play on and on

When you stumble in the dark  
Strike a light from a brand-new spark  
Don't run or hide; turn to the other side  
Stand up with pride, the door is open wide

Play on and on and on

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