- 1. Far between sundown's finish an'midnight's brokentoll We ducked inside the doorway, thunder crashing As majestic bells of bolts struckshadows in the sounds Seeming to be the chimes of freedom flashing Flashing for the warriors whose strength is not to fight Flashing for the refugees on the unarmed road of flight An' for each an' ev'ry underdog soldier in the night An' we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing.
- 2. In the city's melted furnace, unexpectedly we watched With faces hidden as the walls were tightening As the echo of the wedding bells before the blowin' rain Dissolved into the bells of the lightning Tolling for the rebel, tolling for the rake Tolling for the luckless, the abandoned an' forsaked Tolling for the outcast, burnin' constantly at stake An' we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing.
- 3. Through the mad mystic hammering of the wild ripping hail The sky cracked its poems in naked wonder That the clinging of the church bells blew far into the breeze Leaving only bells of lightning and its thunder Striking for the gentle, striking for the kind Striking for the guardians and protectors of the mind An' the poet an the painter far behind his rightful time An' we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing.
- 4. In the wild cathedral evening the rain unraveled tales For the disrobed faceless forms of no position Tolling for the tongues with no place to bring their thoughts All down in taken-for granted situations Tolling for the deaf an' blind, tolling for the mute For the mistreated, mateless mother, the mistitled prostitute For the misdemeanor outlaw, chased an' cheated by pursuit An' we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing.
- 5. Even though a clouds's white curtain in a far-off corner flashed An' the hypnotic splattered mist was slowly lifting Electric light still struck like arrows, fired but for the ones Condemned to drift or else be kept from drifting Tolling for the searching ones, on their speechless, seeking trail For the lonesome-hearted lovers with too personal a tale An' for each unharmfull, gentle soul misplaced inside a jail An' we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing.
- 6. Starry-eyed an' laughing as I recall when we were caught
 Trapped by no track of hours for they hanged suspended
 As we listened one last time an' we watched with one last look
 Spellbound an' swallowed 'til the tolling ended
 Tolling for the aching whose wounds cannot be nursed
 For the countless confused, accused, misused, strung-out ones an' worse
 An' for every hung-up person in the whole wide universe
 An' we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing.