My Back Pages

America

Crimson flames tied through my ears Rollin' high and mighty traps Pounced with fire on flaming roads Using ideas as my maps

"We'll meet on edges, soon," said I Proud 'neath heated brow Ah, but I was so much older then I'm younger than that now

Half-racked prejudice leaped forth "Rip down all hate," I screamed Lies that life is black and white Spoke from my skull, I dreamed

Romantic flanks of musketeers Foundationed deep, somehow Ah, but I was so much older then I'm younger than that now

In a soldier's stance, I aimed my hand At the mongrel dogs who teach Fearing that I'd become my enemy In the instant that I preach

My existence led by confusion boats Mutiny from stern to bow Ah, but I was so much older then I'm younger than that now

My guard stood hard when abstract threats Too noble to neglect Deceived me into thinking I had something to protect

Good and bad, I define these terms Quite clear, no doubt, somehow Ah, but I was so much older then I'm younger than that now

I was so much older then
I'm younger than that now