

# The Leader Falls

A great leader falls  
but the people remain  
his lineage calls  
and stakes its claim  
the shadow is long  
but their lives do not change  
great men fade  
but the people remain

Still full are the stalls  
and the people will trade  
the Sphinx stands watch  
yet they go on their way  
the leader is gone  
but the people remain  
sand through the glass  
the people bury a king

A messenger goes out  
to the four corners of the Earth  
from far and wide they converge  
people buy and sell without their kings  
love and die and have no names  
have no monuments to mark their graves  
faraway leaders exchange their praise  
only hoping to sustain

A great leader calls  
and they build up great walls  
where the water will flow  
and break against stones  
built of their bones  
to hold them at bay  
yet the dam will break  
and the people remain

Whole forests fall  
as his hand is waved  
mountains laid low  
and the winds obey  
where rivers go  
people whisper his name  
but the Sphinx knows  
that his visage will fade

The new star rises  
owns all in its light  
and thousands shall pay  
blood for his prize  
icons of stone  
break the horizons  
built for eternity  
pay homage to the kings

But the Lion knows the truth  
that pyramids crumble  
and few remember  
when the emperor stumbled  
his calls unanswered  
time buries his name  
today a great leader fell  
but the people remain