

Old man on a barstool watching TV  
He Got up and came over to sit closer to me  
He said "You look familiar to someone I knew  
But when were your age we were older than you  
And Jimmy was twenty and I seventeen  
to us there was nothing but girls and machines  
Jimmy got married and I went to war  
I still don't know what we were doing it for  
But if you'll buy me a drink--turkey on ice  
Then I could give you some advice

"You just stay in the bar  
For as long as you can  
Cause as long as you're drinking  
Then you've got the world in your hand

"There's no shame in hanging your world by a string  
And you know there's no harm in not thinking a thing  
But trying to find a place for yourself in this world  
Is like trying to make a wife of an American girl  
If you'll trade me a drink for a story or two  
Then you'll know what you need to do

"You just stay in the bar  
For as long as you can  
You know love is for sissies  
It's whiskey that makes you a man"

Now the old man got up and stumbled out in the street  
He'd been drinking all day and left his bar tab with me  
I didn't have the money to cover his bill  
But I found me a man who looked like me, younger still  
And said, "Buy me a drink and I'll tell you a tale  
About the old man who taught me so well

You just stay in the bar  
For as long as you can  
Hell I know you're a friend  
I can tell by the shakes in your hand  
You just stay in the bar  
For as long as you dare  
As long as you're tipping  
Then you've got a good friend somewhere