

The Crucible

It was my decision many years ago
To follow the footsteps of a very special group.
To bravely defend my country and fight for all that's right,
We sought out evil in all its forms and returned the victor,
With freedom as the prize.

As a young squire, I stood among the valiant knights
And learned my lessons well.
As time past and my training progressed,
I was sure I would never reach my final goal

The knights who trained me were truly heroes
Though few in numbers they vanquished all their foes.
In time my training was complete,
I now had only one obstacle to go.
A final test, the Crucible,

It took all my strength fighting through the pain I wouldn't quit.
I passed the test as the knights who came before,
They said I earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor and welcomed me aboard;
You're now a Marine and ready to take your place among the heroes here.

I was welcomed at their table and laughed as they told their tales,
They spoke of their battles, and how they fought their wars.
We prayed for those we lost in battle fighting for the cause,
I learned what makes us different, the traditions of the corps.

We went where we were told and fought against the odds;
We always fought for the weak and against a tyrant's rise.
It's been a long career, more years than I'd like to count.
There are new squires now, not yet Marines;

They have so many lessons yet to learn.
Although my armor's dented and blackened by the fire of battle,
We'll teach the young who'll stand the posts and protect our shores;
The time has come to lay my weapons down
And take my place with the heroes of the past.

My battles now belong to history
As I take another path. No longer a Knight in shining armor,
I will watch with pride as young Marines, our country's finest Knights,
Fight around the world.
I pray I trained them well and they go with God on all their future quests.

Dedicated to the Brotherhood who earned the
The Eagle Globe and Anchor

Thomas P. Lee. USMC 64-67