

RESPECT

Wrinkled and weathery
Worn and leathery
Hair so white, so thin
A dismissive glance and looks askance
Can miss the dance within

Physique so frailing
Health so failing
Shoulder's bowed and bent
Tools worn out while building
A life well lived... well spent

But withered size
And age belies
Vitality that once was
Upon a time a vigor prime
That shaped the world... and still does!

A teacher formed
A pilot stormed
Through the skies in war
An explorer, fearless, set the sail
For an unknown, distant shore

A doctor tended
A surgeon mended
Nurses fended for the ill
Soldiers who, for hearth and home
Charged gallant up the hill

A leader led
A soldier bled
A mother raised her child
A social worker helped some soul
That poverty defiled

A fireman saved
A policeman braved

The lawless, riot crowd
A farmer wiped his sweaty brow
And surveyed the field he'd plowed

Next time you meet
At church or street
A weaker, aged one
Gratefully respect them for
Their life... a job well-done.

Extend your hand
Give a smile
Or at least a friendly nod
Not only would you warm their heart
You'd warm the heart of God!

“ ‘Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly
and revere your God. I am the LORD.’ ”

Leviticus 19:32
New International Version