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S. — holds for ev-ry liv-ing thing a place. — It's a land where ev-ry boy, girl,

A. — holds for ev-ry liv-ing thing a place. — It's a land where ev-ry boy, girl,

T. — ah — It's a land where ev-ry boy, girl,

B. — ah — It's a land where ev-ry boy, girl,

D.S. al Fine

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S. wo-man and man can see the ho-li-ness in ev-ry face — So we must fall

A. wo-man and man can see the ho-li-ness in ev-ry face — So we must fall

T. wo-man and man can see the ho-li-ness in ev-ry face — So we must fall

B. wo-man and man can see the ho-li-ness in ev-ry face — So we must fall

When my mother had a serious stroke about a year before she died, she began to speak in what is sometimes referred to as "word salad"; intelligible words thrown together and all mixed up in strange and unusual combinations - "just gibberish", I was told. I flew back to North Carolina to visit her, notebook and pen in hand, writing down every phrase I could hear. One of the first I recorded was "We must fall so we can build a more handsome land."

At the time I was studying with African teacher and shaman Malidoma Somé. In our ritual training, he showed us the importance of falling to the ground in our grief and longing to call on the help of the ancestors. This song came pouring out of such a cry for help; such a longing to live in a new way together in our human family.

This song requires quite a bit of practice to learn all the parts, so isn't really suitable for a quickly learned sing-along situation. However, if you have a choir and teach them all the parts, when you perform the song, you can ask the audience to join in on the last repetition of the "We must fall.." chorus. They will have heard it enough to follow along, and will enjoy singing with you at the end.