

'Take Heart'

(From Wolf Biermann's 'Ermutigung')

English interpretation © Topper Sherwood, 2025

Am - E7

[Verse 1]

Am Dm7
Make your heart less brittle

G7 C E7
In these brittle times;

Am Dm7
As the world is quaking;

G7 E7
Fragile hearts are breaking,
C E Am
A brittle heart will break.
Dm7 E Am
The brittle heart will break.

[Verse 2]

Am Dm7
Make your heart less bitter
G7 C E7
In these bitter times
Am Dm7
The ruler loses reason
G7 E7
Tossing us in prisons,
C E Am
But we know wrong from right;
Dm7 E Am
Yes, we know wrong from
right.

[Verse 3]

Am Dm7
Make your heart less fearful;
G7 C E7
In these fearful times;

Am Dm7
Fear breeds hate and killin';

G7 E7

An end to human feelings;
C E Am
It sends soldiers off to
fight;
Dm7 E Am
To that futile war and fight.

[Verse 4]

Am Dm7
Keep your brave heart
cheerful;
G7 C E7
In these cheerless times
Am Dm7
Don't give in to sadness;
G7 E7
Spite them with your
gladness!
C E Am
With candles, burning bright;
Dm7 E Am
Burning through the night.

[Verse 5]

Am Dm7
Keep your brave heart
singing;
G7 C E7
In these silent times;
Am Dm7
Good folks are a-risin';
G7 E7
No more compromisin';
C E Am
Hear! The bells do ring!
Dm7 E Am
Let your bold heart sing!