

## If this World Survives (We'll Try)

*[Pete Seeger performed the first verse of this song and asked me to add to it. The lyrics had been written by Malvina Reynolds. Pete wrote the music. I added two verses. He preferred the last one, but I decided to use both.]*

If this world survives and every other day I think it might,  
In good part it will be because of the great souls in our community.

There are a lot of them, I've seen them walk  
In lonely thousands down a city street  
Or stand vigils in the rain  
Or turn the handles of a print machine.

Or empty their pockets as the plate comes by  
Or gaze into the camera's eye.

And to answer the question: "Will the world survive?"

They've said, [**"sing with me"** – *Pete actually wrote these words into the lyric sheet*]

**"We'll try – we'll try – we'll try – we'll try."**

[Again] **"We'll try – we'll try – we'll try – we'll try."**

**"We'll try."**

If this world survives and every other day I think it might  
In good part it'll be because we've taken time to clearly see

Were we forceful enough? Were we kind?  
Did we see reality? Were we blind?

Did we do enough? Did we come on too strong?  
Should we've done different things all along?

Did we help a friend or stranger through the day?  
Or did we let our chances waste away?

And to answer the question: "Will the World Survive?"

We've said, **"We'll try – we'll try – we'll try – we'll try – we'll try."**

**"We'll try – we'll try – we'll try – we'll try."**

**"We'll try."**

If this world survives and every other day I think it might  
In good part it'll be because we've gone and done what we know is right.

When it seems that savings the world is too hard even to attempt  
We feel like giving up, but then we try again – With a little help from our friends.

And we find when we do something right  
Others will join our fight,

And together we'll answer: "Will the world survive?" Saying,

[**"all together now"**: – *also written by Pete into the lyric sheet*]

**"We'll try – we'll try – we'll try – we'll try – we'll try."**

**"We'll try – we'll try – we'll try – we'll try."**

**"We'll try."**

If this world survives and every other day I think it might  
In good part it will be because of the great souls in our community.