The Day the Last Hemlock Died

A night bird sings... a lonesome lullaby
Embers glow beneath a purple sky
Heavy eyes ... lead to Appalachian dreams
Of being comfortably lost
Beneath the hemlock trees

A black-throated green... warbled in my ear
Said he was mourning the passing
Of his home so dear
He could barely sing ... through tears in his eyes
Cause today the last hemlock died
Today... the last hemlock had died

And gray skeletons stood tall
But in time they will fall
To a forest floor that knows shade no more
Evergreen had turned to gray
And he had dreaded the day
That the last... hemlock died
Today... the last hemlock died

I asked him... what caused this tragedy?
He said it's a product of your negligence, apathy, & greed
You brought it over... from a foreign land
And now the blood of the hemlocks is on your hands

Then I awoke... from my dream
Wiped the sleep from my eyes and gazed up through the evergreens
Then I heard... a familiar song
It was a black-throated green... welcoming the dawn

And the hemlocks stood tall
But in time they will fall
To a forest floor that knows shade no more
And evergreens will turn to gray
And I dread the day
That the last hemlock dies

Lord please forgive us...
When the last hemlock dies