

THE DEAR GREEN PLACE

ALAN REID

IT WAS BY THE CLEAR MOLENDINAR BURN
WHERE IT MEETS AND RUNS WITH THE RIVER CLYDE
AND THEY TELL THE TALE OF THE HOLY ONE
WHO WAS FISHING DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE
A HOLY MAN, FROM FIFE HE CAME
HIS NAME THEY SAY WAS KENTIGERN
AND BY THE SPOT WHERE THE FISH WAS CAUGHT
THE DEAR GREEN PLACE WAS BORN

NOW THE SALMON RAN THROUGH THE RIVER STREAM
AND THEY SALTED THEM BY THE BANKS O' CLYDE
AND THE FACES GLOWED AS THE SILVER FLOWED
AND THE PLACE AROSE BY THE RIVERSIDE
THERE WAS CLOTH TAE DYE AND HOSE TAE BUY, THE TRADERS CAME FROM ALL AROUND
AND THEY RAISED A GLASS TO THE DEAR GREEN PLACE
THE PLACE THAT WAS A TOWN

THERE IS A TOWN THAT ONCE WAS GREEN
AND A RIVER FLOWED TO THE SEA etc

WHEN THE FURNACES CAME TAE FIRE THE IRON
AND FOLK WERE THROWN FROM THE FARMLAND
THEN THE IRISHMAN AND THE HIGHLAND MAN
AND THE HUNGRY MAN CAME WITH WILLING HANDS
THEY WANTED WORK, A PLACE TAE LIVE, THEIR EMPTY BELLIES NEEDED FILLED
AND THE FARMYARD WAS ANOTHER WORLD
FROM THE DIRTY, OVERCROWDED MILL

NOW YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF THE FOREIGN TRADE
AND FORTUNES MADE BY TOBACCO LORDS
BUT THE WORKING MAN SLAVED HIS LIFE AWAY
AND AN EARLY GRAVE WAS HIS SOLE REWARD
A DREARY ROOM, A CROWDED SLUM, DISEASE AND HUNGER EVERYWHERE
AND THE PRICE TAE PAY WAS ANOTHER DAY
TO FIGHT THE ANGER AND DESPAIR

THERE IS A TOWN THAT ONCE WAS GREEN
AND A RIVER FLOWED TO THE SEA
THE RIVER FLOWS FOREVER ON
BUT THE DEAR GREEN PLACE IS GONE

A THOUSAND YEARS HAVE BEEN HERE AND GONE
SINCE KENTIGERN SAW THE BANKS O' CLYDE
HOW MANY DREAMS AND HOW MANY TEARS
IN A THOUSAND YEARS OF A CITY'S LIFE
A CITY HARD, A CITY PROUD, AND NO MEAN CITY IT HAS BEEN
PERHAPS TOMORROW IT YET MAY BE
THE DEAR GREEN PLACE AGAIN

THERE IS A TOWN THAT ONCE WAS GREEN
AND A RIVER FLOWED TO THE SEA etc