

## 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 RIVER SIDE  
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 RIVER SIDE  
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  
THE RIVER FLOWS FOREVER ON  
BUT THE DEAR GREEN PLACE IS GONE*

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....*

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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.....*

see <http://www.localhistories.org/glasgow.html>