

The Sun Shines Brightly Today

The sun shines brightly down today
But on the horizon far away
Dark clouds gather with menace
An invading army waiting for the day

The cold winds of austerity are screaming
Through the land far and wide
Sweeping people along in their wake
Blowing away their hopes and their pride

But this has happened to us before
And people learnt to stand together
Marched to London with dignity and pride
Not looking for scapegoats for ever

Tensions rise like unwanted weeds
Amongst the flowers of hope and love
Threats are uttered in voices
Where thought has been strangled at birth

Books are burned on the internet
So easy to forget the plaintive view
Of the man who said that where you burn books
You will later burn people too

Yet we have had our violence before
When fiery riots and sly attacks begun
Misunderstandings were overcome
As we learnt to live together as one

Whilst well-mannered thugs sitting in judgement
Pass new legislation
Eroding hard-won rights
So their media masters can run the nation

Remember those who were taken from their rivers
Like cattle to the new world where they were sold
Remember how people stood with them
By the banks where our own river flows

Whilst differences are highlighted
For life can seem so much easier to understand
When a whole people can be summed up in a few spiteful words
Uttered out of hand

Once we built our communities carefully
Human bricks cemented with love
Showing how different materials
Can fit neatly together like a favourite glove

Now hatred drops through the letter box
Or hangs in the fetid air
Like in other places when
Darkness engulfed the light anywhere

Remember how we rejected those who came
Dressed in sinister black
Remember those who saved the living dead
And slowly brought their life back

Beware all those who will say
We have to turn our backs on neighbours and friends
That there is a bigger picture
That means are justified by ends

Beware the false prophets who promise Utopia
Of the perfect future ahead
If we are just prepared to shed our humanity
On a road paved with the dead

If we fall again into the abyss
Allow the brave and the innocent to die
The voices of the future will accuse us
Echoing down the years: Why? Why? Why?

A Living Tradition