

# Apollo (1/2 - sections 1 and 2)

by Iain James Robb

*Apollo*

*Song of the Sun*

I.

The flush, from first, is its own genesisising:  
Inside the flameyard, comes at first its revelation  
At our lie, eyes set on glass: no point of notice  
Of where the shade struck blind some shy three hours from Terce.  
We are white refractions glanced from mullioned windows,  
Where at watch the world resides the mirrored way  
In which The Sun's bird sweeps a minor mirror distant-  
From the russet curves that skim the Milky Way.  
In its meridian swim, the image, of an unrequested promise-  
Thus here again sequestered and sequestering, and may  
It stay as red magnesium as our love, or lust, a trellis  
To the wordless rung upon its roundelay.  
And as our love-lust's fuschia turrets, the night also slips  
vermillion,  
On our tar and terracotta, in remembrance of that plea  
That Prime pregnated burst at first, upon its lover's pillion-  
That split the cyan waves that clutched us undersea:  
Caught at the lazy zenith of its math, remembers  
Without knowing us weakling stars who fork the Forger's tree-  
Perchance no nest or rest of all its metalled embers...

That fluctuate the bud, that curves the mullioned sea.

And if Death should be preferred, in lieu of sleep, then  
Held in golden hands is all the land we see:  
Remembering the tenfold by the 'not again' ,  
Upon blank gates re-entered in this infancy-  
Of wake to second slumber, oh, and come faint, forth,  
Or brighter from mad garrets where grey claimants cry  
To solitude the same as frames the Crossbow north-  
When sud of speedwell centres in the safflower sky:  
Fey-clad consumption of the suns, a diorama barred in  
Access to the strake gates of a garnet See:  
As the world's waif engraves itself by the same garden,  
In the pepperminted rondure of its moiety.

And a nurturing consumption is the someday Sun's:  
Some day that would inherit us, though then  
In burning us, would It receive our margins-  
Arrayed to greet its blaze, through liquid aconites?  
We'd seek one stranger, perched upon our kingdoms,  
For sure enough are other satellites-  
In turn to take as lampborn saviours, but for these  
Adjourning derelicts, gay ghosts I call our hours,  
And tick-tocked motions stations of the grave,  
Appointed on the spellbound course of seasons-  
I shine Thee eternal, Sun: and come the scours  
To the grey regalias of post-Summer's pages,  
You will still burn flower-bud turn upon the fiefdoms  
That appoint no lords but who inherit You.  
The pilot assets, promises, debentures,  
Debattente emissaries of market ventures,  
And jobsworth adjutants and arbiters of guises,  
Of a mart that wears us by our capital -  
Transmogrifying hives of business guerdon,  
And the smiling strivers of the office quadrant,

Shine too in You though absent of arriving  
At a thought that claims them held within Your hall.  
And, chasing glades of dust, between far fairways-  
Left, insomnia's wanderers where the tight lamps climb...  
Floods moonwhite on intemperamental stairways,  
Both the moonwight's curve and silver strands You limn,  
From out its shuttled vertex, O Appolon..  
Soon mount, and then encapture in their clime  
The office hearts You cast a crystal Cross on...  
Setting far their cots from thoughts of harvest-time.

The streetlamp shuts its moth within its osier.  
Burned way beyond its sail, meridian Rose,  
A mounted mothship waits to hold way closer,  
By sides that sheer it straight of fellow throws  
The silent waves take: ah, my burnbright, chase her;  
The ship at sundown sees one blueblind star,  
Among the bluebound sweep below the Chaser;  
Set sight from her but bé her magister.

...And the bridge I claim by midnight does not fear the bringer  
Of the equal grace a day benights in parallel:  
That faced a while my outreach from the spare blue bell  
Above that learns to burn below the bellflower.  
On magnesium meadows moonswept by no fall of farer,  
Serenade us as the reels go by and wheels and runs-  
And a nurturing consumption is the stalwart Sun's:  
And recumbent, Its lane's light is its own harbingér.

## II.

Gigantically heaping, past the pumiced dawn,  
White rider, swinging circles into light-  
Do you cross the spar-lengths of meridians,  
O albatross, conspirant of the thought

The sea dreams of its relic mastery?  
Light-bowed reliquary of songs of this the leap...  
Cognizant of our choral, O prowed Sun:  
Sift-soarer of our pain and orchestra-  
Orgasmic chorus, of our penitence-

Drowned absolution of our bitter prayers  
When sweeping seaward-down against your steepes,  
Swing desolation on our finitude,  
We choristers of blanchening majesty-  
Sprite Sun: adjourn past satelliting heaps  
Of traffic isles and be but by and by  
What every tempest tells, to those who sleep  
Beyond the crux of Your last lullaby.  
But the wind whips on the dryer lanes where no-one speaks:  
Alantic harbinger and virgin sailbird, sway,  
And albatross, "Are you through shrieking speech?"  
Fallen forth at last upon the utmost way  
The rocks lose all rejoinders to their rocking bell...  
The wraiths of spray will dessicate, upon Your drum. .  
Dynámo silence hammered of a blacker belfry  
That greets perception with no pandemonium  
Dead eyes of diamond seize; O sing and turn tongue-blindly,  
While vultures cross my radiance, screaming "Yell."  
The yellow bursts afresh in orgiastic swell,  
But does not strive to feign my rapture's radiance:  
Olympian seabird swinging into knell,  
That profligates the coast's wan prescience, scry,  
Ejaculating tumours of this tell  
Of tides that tick the hours and matte the sky  
The Atlantic vagrants wave upon their crest  
We do not seek or see, we have no rest;  
Is this the passion of our liberty?  
So slick the windows that the coast-lights fly,  
Amidst their mirrors past all hasp and hest...

Of spoken junctures languished into jest,  
Of feignless joy or paintless tragedy.

Where spill Your wights, my Maharajah,  
Or lightly sites your fresher faun,  
That skates beyond the frosted water,  
Belonged, long past the broads of bone?  
What summer's bronze sends its sung spiral,  
Or seed or shaft rehafts its hides  
In bonze's court, or hay-block barrel,  
Or lightening that the rainbird rides?  
Oh, lilt, celestial Pomegranate,  
Or tilt to tryst the pardoned's path,  
When guilt is just more white planet  
Hardened at the cenotaph.  
Fleet-fill you far, grand Diorama,  
Let loose the girdles Your full sides,  
Eternal fracturing of the dharma,  
Of Her who turns and churns the tides...

And parlous myth abroad, the lightning rider,  
Of cloudling wraths made in man's cell  
To lend him ruth, O shadow strider,  
If left lapsed where light roses dwell.  
Though knowing nought where will your wheelers,  
Pandora blossom, ordinance of sun and sill  
May wonder well where will at wheel is,  
If voice-lopped where You wheel Your will.  
Abroad upon a sill-less window,  
The search of what apart, ago,  
Was left, is left for limbs to winnow  
Of light-lipped branchlets; even so  
The svelte suffusion of Your sorrel  
Immagistrates the last long blue-  
Where what was sending such sung spiral?

We are the days that disinherit You:

But You are what the crashing stars umpiral  
Leave on arts and leaves on oracles:  
To sway fresh sands on lines imperial  
Time bleeds on frozen boats, and coracles-  
To pave another recourse from the chasing air.  
And what faint weight has placed You, Ariel,  
As toppermost of chosen circles there,  
Other than the vacant stand at top of stair-  
Or blue below those bounds, Your beating auricles?-  
Limned in linnet's raptures that regleam, arterial,  
Beyond grey gates we build again less magisterial,  
Or sweet retreats we seize again from strands arterial-  
In rooms of play where once You came and waited there...

And in nests of ires that spire in calms, come, Magister of fire:  
To my gallows-hearth once blanched in passions: strands, and  
palanquins

From East of where the russet comes: come higher, cladding  
higher-  
On millioned lanes and trellised circle, lamps, and harlequins-  
Abroad from urban congeries, grand mariner, and wire  
That the refugee from shipwreck slips with; slippingly, there spins  
Again from out the crosstree of Your galvinating gyre,  
The mirror-quest, the spires of answerings  
The sea breathes, over pebbled dash and shire,  
Entrenching floats of fliers over almond, over grey;  
Our orbit shifts so gently we can't correspond to Day  
That day by day stood sentry still, or silenced, or to sing.  
Fix Your broad and clockless orbit on the clockwork world, and  
bring

Across the glass and lilac tapestries, the way you wing there,  
weigh  
Our claiming entry: over flutter-fleets of things that ring

Across the grass and lilac lands, wherein You wing Your alway:  
Across the grand and violet tapestries that flux and fling...

And I found my silence trancing in the crash and blaring  
(Reel, ever wheeling Priestess, will us waywards, pray,  
Curving turn in circlets): and I steel and, staring,  
All the while you slake your manes in us and while our weigh-  
Catch swift, before the summer comes, fern dykes at open  
On all floors, celestial Shrike, that with all noonsuns swing;  
Learn to love us as we loved You once, and tired of turning  
Lay our heads at rest in entry to Your Mother's den...

Warm windless night: that knew no masters once, or sired their  
mastery

Of the force that keeps all boats afloat in hold and prone:  
Cast up beyond Your whirling float to gyve in archery,  
Towards the nightlight masks, the corralled ones who harp and  
hone-

Grand anvillers of hence of here, the lords of lost and onwards,  
At the gantries that espied our paths a second Rome-  
At point of all each heaven holds, and harboured homewards:  
At the point of all each heaven-held and havened home.

