

O Donald Trump, Woe Donald Trump

Donald Trump is an American billionaire born of an exiled Hebridean mother. He plans to build “the world’s greatest golf course” and five hundred executive houses on a pristine beach near Aberdeen, previously viewed as a protected land. This *bàrdachd* arose from his attempts to evict an elderly woman who stands in his way. It is not an art poem. It is a bardic declamation coming out of a tradition that speaks social truth direct to power - hot, rough, and on the hoof.

Alastair McIntosh, from The Bunker,¹ December 2010
First published by Bella Caledonia on
15-II-11 at <http://wp.me/p93oK-y8>

O Donald Trump
It was my own old mother’s taxi driver
on the Isle of Lewis
who said he lives next
to your old mother’s house
on the Isle of Lewis
That made me think
how close we are
being separated by
just two mothers
and one Stornoway taxi
And got me thinking
of your visit to the Island
back in June 08
to your family croft home
Inside of which you stepped
(according to reports)
for fully ninety-eight seconds
And told the press
(with reference to
your true relations
which is to say
the Trump International Golf Links)
yes, told the press:

“I think this land is special.
I think Scotland is special,
and I wanted to do something special
for my mother”²

To which the neighbours said:

“We never saw the likes of this in our lives”

“He’s had a lifetime to come here so why is he doing it now?”

“It’s a PR stunt ...”³

... because, as a former councillor elaborated
the place was being "... cynically manipulated"⁴
and even your own cousin said
with classic Island understatement
(not passed on in your genetic strand):
 "We're happy to see him
 although the visit
 is very brief."

O Donald Trump
it is not the press before you now
nor Island dignitaries nor even me ...
I am but the scribe
moved by the land itself
that as you said "is special"
to raise my pen on its behalf
The Island too has got a voice
(though not a PR machine)
The Island too has got a view
upon the ways of such a son as you
The Island knows about your wealth
and what you did to get it
and hears you speak of Barron Trump
your own ten month wee son
paraded down the Walk of Fame
at Hollywood – you said:
 "He's strong, he's smart, he's tough, he's vicious, he's violent:
 all of the ingredients you need to be an entrepreneur!"⁵
We would have thought it in jest
were it not for the blood trail
of real estate ... (who pays rent
and who collects?)
and the casinos ...
(whose lives are spun on that roulette
both during hours, and after?)
The Trump World Tower
The Trump Star Tower
The Trump Elite Tower
The Trump Palace
The Trump Taj Mahal
and Trump Marina
far from the chip shops of Stornoway Harbour
And your name golden everywhere
hi-rise windows glittering

“with Viracon’s 24-karat gold-coated glass”⁶
not from you “cold shoulder gold”
but, a Liquid Gold Bodywrap
with a 24 Karat Gold Facial
at the Trump Tower Spa
which according to publicity
(that surely speaks the Truth as much as you)
soothes away the wrinkles
by immersing crinkled body parts, I quote
“in pure gold minerals and Egyptian chamomile”
and “muscle soothing massage with oils
infused with golden particles,” and:
 “to top off the opulent treatment
 guests are dusted in shimmering,
 iridescent gold powder”
... thereby offering
 “... discerning spa guests
 the ultimate combination
 of optimal skin care
 and *guiltless decadence*.”⁷

O Donald Trump
of Midras hubris, Golden Calf and Babel Towers
who with your trumped up politicians
(a disappointment to our Scottish soil)
stand bunkered, as the prophets say
“convicted by their convictions”
or the deficit thereof
It is not I that prosecute
but the Island - of your mother and my youth
whose skeins of calcium and phosphorous
were knitted through our fledgling frames
from out of herring bones and sheep and milk and oats
You stand accused, Donald Trump
... Stand up before the Court!
the Island’s court
... of forcing golden facials
on nature’s long protected countenance
at Menie Links by Aberdeen
to make for tourist golf a course
with calls for airport fairways stretched
to fly the face of global climate change
To trumpet up a way of life
this world no longer can sustain

(for the Earth can no longer afford the rich)
To force your way bulldozered in
by forcing others out
although you hid the might of clout
and spun the spin which said:

“The Trump Organisation
has no Compulsory Purchase Order powers.”⁸

You stand accused, Donald Trump
of seeking to evict
eighty-six year old Molly Forbes
and her son, and the budgie perched on her shoulder
who says about her place:

“I don’t want to sell it.
It is my paradise.
I want to live in it.
Why should some of those top knobs
in Government with their crooked ways
of claiming money
get legal aid
but I can’t?
I think I can’t get any
because I’m too honest.”

To which your sugared growlers say:
“It is regrettable that an elderly woman
Has been used to front
this frivolous court action.
There are consequences
for filing a baseless claim
and her son and lawyers
should pay the expenses.”⁹

Oh really, Donald?
Consequences!
to seek protection from the law
of human rights
so not to be cleared out
from her own wee but and ben
for your greed, not need
with legal costs of up to 50k
more than she is maybe worth
but not as much as principle
(in case you fail to understand)

O, Donald Trump!
Woe, Donald Trump
... Woe ... woe ... woe ...

There are “consequences” indeed
for what you do
The Island from within
sees the likes of you
The Island names, un.masks, engages with
the likes of you
who take its name in vain against the grain
The Island has a context
into which to place the likes of you
I quote, again
from the Island’s own ... publicity:
 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”
 For ye devour widows’ houses...
 For ye are like unto whitened sepulchres,
 which indeed appear beautiful outward,
 but are within full of dead men’s bones,
 and of all uncleanness.”¹⁰

Woe to you, Donald Trump:
 “Woe unto them that add house to house,
 that join field to field, until there is no more room,
 and that ye dwell yourselves alone
 in the midst of the land!”¹¹

Woe to you, Donald Trump, for:
 “The Lord preserveth the strangers;
 he relieveth the fatherless and widow:
 but the way of the wicked
 he turneth upside down.”¹²

Woe, woe and three times, woe!

O, Donald Trump ...
be not mistaken
The Island does not cast a curse
does not return the shameful act with evil eye
Sufficient that it just ...
withdraws its blessing
T’is you who stand yourself accursed
and drains the flow of life ...
the artery cut that curls and tightens
dreadful back upon itself
The Island stands not for a curse
but only to forgive
to draw back in its Prodigals
“not seven times” they say
“but seventy times seven times”¹³

You told the world you loved this land
 and wished your mother's memory
 (though naming your development
 we have perforce observed
 not after Mary Ann MacLeod
 but after ... Mr Trump)
 Don't make for her a bunker ...
 ... from the plunder of another woman's world
 ... from beauty's desecration of true nature free and wild
 ... from climate change vainglorious in "guiltless decadence"
 Come home, Donald ...
 Come home in your mind!
 Come home to gentle honest folks!
 Come home to nature's guileless way!
 without greed
 without force
 without tears
 Renounce the rootless sands of capital and pride!
 Renounce the decorated corpse of suppurating wealth!
 Renounce those "vicious ... violent" so-called winning ways!
 ... Come home, o Donald Trump, come home to this new start
 ... and build a golden Tower to be your greatest work of living art
 ... that rises from the fairway as the meteoric human heart
 Transmuted ... Transfigured ... Transubstantiated
 Come home, Donald ...
 just come on home

References¹⁴

-
- ¹ <http://www.trippinguptrump.com/the-bunker>
² <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/09/donaldtrump.scotland>
³ <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article4097572.ece>
⁴ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2098500/Donald-Trump-flies-to-Western-Isles-to-visit-mothers-home.html>
⁵ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2007/01/16/donald-trump-on-his-10mon_n_38807.html
⁶ <http://www.glassmagazine.com/article/commercial/trump-tower-glitters-with-gold-coating>
⁷ <http://www.trendhunter.com/trends/liquid-gold-body-wrap-trump-tower-spa> - my italics.
⁸ <http://www.trumpgolfscotland.com/Default.aspx?p=DynamicModule&pageid=302670&ssid=188191&vnf=1>
⁹ <http://www.heraldscotland.com/mobile/news/home-news/widow-facing-huge-legal-bills-in-trump-protest-appeals-to-court-of-human-rights-1.1073890>
¹⁰ Matthew 23:14, 27 KJV
¹¹ Isaiah 5:8 DBT
¹² Psalms 146:9 KJV
¹³ Matthew 18:22 WNT
¹⁴ It appears that Mr Trump has heard the outcry and has recently backed down on the threatened use of compulsory purchase orders – see <http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/2115921?UserKey=>