

# LANDLINE

## FIVE WALKS IN SKYE

### Aig Tobar Loch Shianta

*Dha Keiko Mukaide, neach-ealain à Iapan a tha a' fuireach ann an Alba agus a thadhail air Tobar Loch Shianta. 'iana' – 's ann mar seo a muinntir an àite ga fhuaimneachadh. A rèir choltais, 's ann bho sianta/seunta a tha an t-ainm a' tighinn. Bha an tobar seo, ann an Tròndairnis, ainmeil mar thobar slànachaidh sna seann làithean.*

Latha fuar frasach,  
an loch fhèin luasganach  
le gaoth tuath rapach

ach tha an tobar sìochail  
fo fhasgadh chraobh fuchsia  
agus caochan a' sruthadh

bhon loch sheunta –  
's sinne nar triùir aig an tobar  
a' gabhail stiùir a brìgh

's i a' sruthadh gu ciùin,  
a' samhlachadh sìth –  
diva mhàlda, leth-fhalaichte.

Togaidh sinn uisge gu ar bilean  
gun mhìr-mhineachadh an fhacail  
a' cur casg air a shlàinte:

chan eil facal ga ràdh,  
a' cuimhneachadh a' hado  
eadar aigne is uisge.

Thig an t-uisge bhon ghrunnd  
a-nìos, fada shìos fon choille,  
bhon talamh choibhneil:

an t-uisge diombuan is buan,  
an-diugh ann am Flòdaigearraidh  
's a-màireach os cionn cuan.

Ear is iar a' tighinn còmhla  
aig an tobar san tiotan seo:  
's e am facal simpatico.

## At Sacred Loch Well

*Dedicated to Keiko Mukaide, a Japanese artist living in Scotland and who visited the well at Loch Shianta in 2006. She has an interest in sacred wells. The locals pronounce the name as 'iana'. It appears to come from the word sianta/seunta, meaning enchanted, defended by enchantments, sacred. This well in Trotternish was renowned in the old days as a healing well and people came to it from near and far.*

A cold showery day,  
the loch itself restless,  
with a brisk northerly wind

but the well is calm  
under shelter of fuchsias  
and a streamlet runs

from the sacred loch –  
we a threesome at the well  
guided by its virtue

as it flows quietly,  
communicating peace –  
a shy, half-hidden diva.

We raise water to our lips  
without the analytic word  
stopping its wholeness:

if there is a word it is prayer,  
remembering the hado  
between mind and water.

The water comes from the table  
upwards from far beneath the wood,  
from the kind earth we see:

the transient, lasting water,  
today in Flodigarry  
and tomorrow above some ocean.

East and west come together  
at the well in this moment:  
the word is simpatico.

## Eilean Dòrais

*About a mile to the North, lies the Isle Altvig, it has a high rock facing the East, is near two miles in circumference, and is reputed fruitful in corn and grass, there is a little chapel in it, dedicated to St Tueros.*

*Bho A Description of the Western Islands of Scotland*  
le Màrtainn Màrtainn, 1703

### 1. An t-Eilean

Eilean nan trì ainmean,  
Altavaig, Eilean a' Chinn Mhòir  
agus Eilean Fhlòdaigearraidh

far an robh Dòras a' còmhnaidh  
na bliadhnaichean mòra ud air ais  
mus tàinig na Lochlannaich bho thuath

le targaidean is obair fala,  
ach 's e ainm-san fhathast a tha air chuimhne,  
Cill Dòrais air Cladach Fhlòdaigearraidh,

Poll Dòrais eadar an cladach is an t-eilean,  
eilean aosmhor bàn, gun ri fhaicinn  
ach strìochan fheannag is chlachan;

ach bha Dòras ann uair air choreigin  
's dh'fhàg e a bheannachd againn na ainm  
's dh'fhàg e ainm mar ùrnaigh air muir is fearann

mar cheathach cùbhraidh a' cur beannachd  
air an t-seann fhonn  
mar a ghabhas an oiteag thairis.

### 2. An Naomh Dòras

Uaireigin dhen robh an saoghal  
Air an eilean seo tha aonarachd umam  
mar èideadh, nam chill nì mi ùrnaigh,  
ag aslachadh an Tì as àirde,  
a' ghaoth a' cur crith nam chleòca  
agus crith fèin-àicheadh nam fheòil  
*sic transit gloria mundi.*

Sleuchdaidh mi air mo ghlùinean  
aig àm èirigh na grèine,  
èiridh an uiseag chun nan nèamhan,  
molaidh sinn le chèile an Tighearna  
fuaim na fairge nar cluasan,  
*sic transit gloria mundi.*

Nuair a thig an t-sàbaid chaomh  
cuiridh mi an curach dha na tuinn,

thèid mi chun chill ris an tràigh  
far am bi an treud cruinn;  
leughaidh sinn an Leabhar naomh,  
abraidh sinn aifreann,  
molaidh sinn d' Ainm,  
cuimhnichidh sinn na mairbh,  
*sic gloria transit mundi.*

Thèid mi air ais dham eilean  
far am faigh mi eòlas air neonitheachd  
a bhios am Mac a' lionadh le a mhaise.  
Saltraidh mi air an fheòil,  
's ann dhutsa Dhè a bhios a' ghlòir,  
*sic gloria transit mundi.*

## Doras's Island

*About a mile to the North lies the Isle Altvig, it has a high rock facing the East, is near two miles in circumference, and is reputed fruitful in corn and grass, there is a little chapel in it, dedicated to St Tueros.*

*From A Description of the Western Islands of Scotland by Martin Martin, 1703*

### I. The Island

Island of the three names,  
Altavaig, Isle of the Big Headland  
and Flodigarry Island

where Dòras lived  
all these long years ago  
before the Norsemen came from the north

with targets and bloody work,  
but it's his name that's still remembered,  
Cill Dòras on Flodigarry shore,

Poll Dòras between the shore and the island,  
an ancient fallow island, with nothing to be seen  
but streaks of lazybeds and stones;

but Dòras was there once upon a time  
and left his blessing for us in his name  
left it like a prayer on sea and land

like fragrant mist blessing  
the old earth  
as the breeze blows over.

### 2. Saint Tueros

*Once upon a time*

On this island nothingness surrounds me  
like a garment, in my cell I pray,  
supplicating the Almighty  
as the wind shakes my cloak  
and the renunciation shivers my flesh  
*sic transit gloria mundi.*

I fall on my knees  
at sunrise,  
the lark rises to the heavens,  
we both praise the Lord  
with the sound of the sea in our ears,  
*sic transit gloria mundi.*

When the dear Sabbath comes  
I will put my coracle to the waves

and go to the church by the shore  
where the flock will be gathered;  
we will read from the holy Book,  
we will say mass,  
we will praise Your name,  
we will remember the dead,  
*sic gloria transit mundi.*

I shall return to my island  
where I will imbibe nothingness  
which the Son will fill with beauty.  
I shall tread down the flesh,  
to you O God will be the glory,  
*sic gloria transit mundi.*