

## Epilogue : Iarfhocal

In order not to store hunger  
you must cross the threshold  
head into the unknown  
not be afraid to step  
into the no man's land  
where insects may bite  
bats swoop  
predators lie in wait

By chance the next day  
you may reach a grove  
where a teddy bear  
may invite you  
over his threshold  
to taste his porridge  
that is not too hot or cold  
sit on his chair  
that is not too high or low  
lie on his bed  
that is not too hard or soft

In order not to store hunger  
in your heart for memories  
it is all right to want these things  
it is all right to try them out  
once you have been invited to

On the morrow you must journey on  
though fallen branches trip you  
vines ensnare you

Le nach gcarnfaidh tú ocras  
is gá an tairseach a thrasnú  
tabhairt faoin áit aduain  
gan faitíos ort dul isteach  
sa talamh eadrána  
bíodh is go mbeidh feithidí dod' alpadh  
ialtóga ag tabhairt fogha fút  
creachadóirí ag súil leat

Seans go mbainfidh tú garrán amach  
an lá dar gcionn  
áit a dtabharfaidh béirín  
cuireadh duit  
thar a thairseach isteach  
le blas a fháil ar a leite  
nach bhfuil ró-the ná ró-fhuar  
suí ar a chathaoir  
nach bhfuil ró-ard ná ró-íseal  
luí ar a leaba  
nach bhfuil ró-chrua ná ró-bhog

Le nach gcarnfaidh tú ocras  
id' chroí do chuimhní  
tá sé inghlactha na nithe seo a éileamh  
tá sé inghlactha iad a thriail  
fad is a bhfuil cuireadh faighte agat

An lá arna mhárach is gá leanúint leis an aistear  
cé go mbaineann géaga tite tuisle asat  
go ngaistíonn féithleoga tú

In order not to store hunger  
in your heart for memories  
of that other life you might have lived  
had you allowed yourself to  
you must listen for the chord  
that calls from the far bank  
before the notes are drowned  
by the roar of water underground  
you must wade into the marsh  
in spite of the reptiles  
that may lurk beneath the surface

In order not to store hunger  
in order to reach that other life  
you must make for the far bank  
believe that you will find a way across  
only then will you feel a stepping stone  
beneath your foot and then another

a pathway over to the verge  
where you can lie down  
drink in the heat  
watch the green slime  
on your legs  
curl to letters  
that spell out what is in store  
now that you are safe

Le nach gcarnfaidh tú ocras  
id' chroí do chuimhní  
ar an saol úd a gcaithfeá  
dá ligfeá duit féin é  
is gá cluas a chur ort don gcorda  
a ghlaonn ón mbruach thall  
sula mbáitear na nótaí  
ag líubhéic an uisce faoi thalamh  
is gá treabhadh tríd an riasc  
bíodh is go mbeidh péisteanna  
ag fanacht go fáilí faoin gcaileannógach

Le nach gcarnfaidh tú ocras  
le go sroichfidh tú an saol úd  
is gá déanamh ar an mbruach thall  
creidbheáil go n-aimseoidh tú bealach trasna  
ansin amháin a bhraithfidh tú cloch chora  
faoi do chos agus ansin ceann eile

cosán trasna chuig an gciumhais  
áit a bhféadfaidh tú luí síos  
an teas a shlogadh  
an ramallae glas  
ar do chosa a bhreathnú  
ag tiontú ina litreacha  
a nochtann a bhfuil i ndán duit  
anois agus tú slán