

Winner of the Robert Burns Poetry Competition 2015 - Youth Section

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“Thank Ye, Rabbie Burns”

A serenade to the Scottish bard, whose egalitarian ideas were the basis for the freedom we have today, such as the education system and our right to hunt game.

'Tis nae a gallus, peelie-wallie thought
Tae argue libertie o' anie sort
's a target which mony aftir sought
Fer final pese!
The fight fer freedom, a war tha' must be fought
Tae split mahn frae beast.

Thoch nae fer thys the Bard is known
B'yond his paidges, sanges an' poyems
Sich wonder in the fate o' mahn is shown
B'twin his crafted lines
The truith will leave yer meind a'blown
As't did tae myne.

Nawt ane centurie before Karl Marx,
Engeles an' awl t'other pompous sharks,
(Thys knowledge, maye it maik ye tear thy sark
O'er thy shoogly heid!)

Twas Burns tha' hae the tendencie tae bark
Wirds used by writers smirt an' rebels reide.

A Man's A Man an' To A Mousie small
Wir fulsum exampyls o' his longe hawl
Quill-pen in hand prepared tae bawl
Wi' nae ane sob
Tae spread words o' freedom t'ane an' all
Across t' gloube!

Wha' consequence is this tae me?
Wherefore do I lament tae thee?
T'effect o' Burnses wirk on I
Is strawng indeed!
Frae fundation o' my being, no lie
Tae my life's end!

In Southern Scotland, what is more revered
Than slaugh'er o' our fauna naiybors kindred?
Ou lairn our bairns in colleges unhindered?
In the muthirland-
Twas a setesfacton o' the preevileged;
Nawt in Niew Zealand!

Onely wirk o' Scottish settlers braife;

Fir theis idaias guid thei dinnae strafe
An' theis thoughts thei guard as stiff as staives
Bereift o' fear!
Tae set exampel to their maties rife
Wyth sanctions drear!

So thank ye, Bard o' Alloway
Tha' fashion'd life so amicably
Hae sich tae ow, sich few tae give awai
Fir bleissings boughten!
But ne'er will in thys society
Ye be fergaitten!

Translation

It's not a cheeky, wimpy thought
To argue that freedom in any form
Is a target which is sought after by many
For sanctitude everywhere!
The push for freedom is a war which must be fought
To split man from beast.

Though not for this the Bard is known
Beyond his pages of songs and poems
Discussion of the fate of man is shown
In the subtext of his work.
The truth will leave your mind blown
As was the case wyth me.

Not a century before Karl Marx,
Engeles and all the other puffed-up moral predators
(This knowledge may make you rip your shirt
Over your stupidity)
It was Burns that had the tendency to write (of egalitarianism)
That which would be utilised by future writers and in the Communist revolution.

"A Man's A Man For A' That" and "To A Mouse"
Are some examples of his quest
Pen in hand prepared to bawl
Without a tear
To spread the words of freedom to one and all
Across the world!

What consequence is this to me?
Why do I gesticulate to you (the reader)?
The effect of Burns' writings on me
Is strong indeed!
From start of my being, no lie
To my life's end!

In New Zealand, what is more popular

Than hunting the animals that share this island with us?
Or educating our children in schools?
In Britain
This was only permitted for the aristocracy;
Unlike in New Zealand!

Only the ways of the brave Scottish settlers;
For these great ideas they didn't succumb
And these thoughts they defended as indomitable as staves
Bereft of fear!
To set example to their friends back home
Oppressed by British sanctions!

So thank you, Bard born of Alloway
That fashioned our lives so amicably!
We have so much to owe to you, and so little to retribute
For your blessings!
But never will in this society
You be forgotten!