

# Poems by Phil Brennán

1993

## January 1993

### Faith

Too many questions  
And not enough answers  
No soft reasons  
I'm not a chancer  
But if you're serious  
About who I am  
Then you'll have to carry your own cross  
And bear it with all your soul

For the road is hard  
And there's no respite  
No rest at all  
Until you reach the end  
But if you think it's a game  
Then you might as well not bother  
For I may not help you  
If I think I'm wasting my time

Put your faith in me  
Carry your own cross  
Bear your soul to the world  
Put your faith in me  
Let me be the boss  
And I'll see you to the end of the road

Life is a game  
You'll learn the rules  
As you go along  
Some choices are good  
Some are bad  
But there's one thing I'll guarantee  
You won't regret  
Choosing me

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### Hold On

When all else fails in life  
And you begin to miss the point  
Turning a thousand blind paths  
Chasing a million dreams  
That wisp away like smoke  
Through failing grasping fingers  
Put your arms around my cross  
And hold onto it

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### Always

Take a dream  
And kiss it goodbye  
But remember me  
For I'll be there  
Whatever the need  
Wherever the where  
Remember me  
I'll be there

Take a dream  
And throw it away  
You won't need those dreams  
If you'd put your faith in me  
Stop dreaming  
Hold onto me tight  
And I'll look after you  
From day to night  
Hold onto me  
For all of your days  
I'll be with you  
Always

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February 1993

Sometimes

Sometimes I wonder what it's all about  
Why we live and die  
But whatever I choose to believe in  
There's only one choice to make  
I could lead my life making my own choices  
Living from day to day  
Or I could leave it all up to you  
And have a little faith in God

But when I fall it hurts you so  
I see you bleed a little more  
So I get back upon my feet  
And try it one more time

And sometimes I succeed a bit more  
The harder that I try  
And even when I fall down  
I know I can start again  
So if I put my trust in you  
And if I play my part  
I know you'd be there with me  
Right from the very start

But when I fall it hurts you so  
I see you bleed a little more  
So I get back upon my feet  
And try it one more time

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For the Sake of Love

If I've lied to you then I'm sorry for the  
inconvenience of truth  
If I've betrayed you then I'm sorry for the  
betrayal of youth  
I have not loved you for the sake of a love affair  
Rather I did it for my little black book  
Another notch on the bedstead  
The Harlequin takes a bow

The folly of youth is a party while the folly of  
age is war

Sayings mean nothing when your heart is in  
your loins

The truth is lost in self-gratification  
And a lion is in my heart tearing out all that is  
good and true

For the sake of love

The Harlequin takes a bow

But it's a very hard game to play

And it's never too late to start again

If only you'd play with this Jester

And his Technicoloured dream base

But too much time is wasted

On prefabricated formalities

Don't care much for decency

The Harlequin takes a bow

Lovers should be pure and honest to each other  
If we're to survive this escapade in immorality  
Never giving an inch for the feelings of each  
other

In this dream of ours

Some say so be it while others say it is so

But the questions remain unanswered in the  
corner

By the sink covered in cobwebs

If only I knew too much I'd say something  
profound to clear the air

The Harlequin takes a bow

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## To Be With You

If I've let you down  
I'm sorry and I'll  
Make it up to you  
If I've messed around  
I'm sorry and I'll  
Get round to seeing you

Things are never easy in love  
You have to take it day by day  
And learn to love unselfishly  
If we want this thing to last

When I see you all alone  
Waiting for my call  
It makes me remember why  
I always fall for you

I could never explain my mind  
Let alone my soul  
I know that if you love me  
I would give my all  
To be with you

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## Ode to a Lost Love

Why do you look at me like this  
As if you've got something to say?  
But you don't know how to say it  
If that would really change a thing

I still feel the same as before  
Even if you don't believe me  
I still love you all the same  
Though you betrayed me

So I look away from you  
When you try to say goodbye  
And I just turn away  
So you don't see me cry

I don't think you could say you loved me  
Even if you wanted to  
So I resign myself to walking away  
Before you change your mind

Even when I'm older I won't understand  
Why you left me cold  
I will never quite work it out  
But this Harlequin's smile still fools you

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## Beautiful

Hello stranger  
What is your name?  
You're so beautiful  
I could eat you whole

Your bright green eyes  
Send me spinning like a top  
And your rusty hair  
I don't want to stop

You're so beautiful  
I could eat you whole

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## March 1993

### Mother

Mother  
Help me please  
I don't want to go  
To Ulster to die

Mother  
I am scared  
That I'll return home  
In a box with a flag  
Draped over it  
Like the Turin Shroud  
As an Epitaph  
To my life

Mother  
Help me please  
I don't want to go  
To Ulster to die

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## April 1993

### My Song

If love is a game then tell me the rules  
As I've forgotten how to play  
But I don't think I'd ever play again  
If that's OK with you

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## July 1993

### Smile

Sometimes it feels like you don't love me at all  
But when I see you smile I see the worth of it all  
And I see you in our children's eyes  
It fills me with a sense of pride  
When you smile

So smile on me when I'm feeling blue  
In that lovely way you always do  
So keep on smiling and you'll keep me  
Keep me true

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## August 1993

### Wisdom

Show me a wise man  
And I'll show you a fool  
For is it not man's lot to ponder the universe  
And the more he learns the more of a fool he  
becomes  
Yet this is our lot  
And let us be glad in it

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## Forever To Be

Once I believed that I'd fall in love  
And sing of something beautiful and pure  
But dreams are there to be broken and torn

A friend once told me to follow your dreams  
To never let go until the end  
Of all that's to come and more

And yet it seems so hard when your heart is in  
tatters  
Held together with super glue and gaffa tape  
To see a light at the end of the tunnel

So I resign myself to finding my peace  
And when it's time to rest awhile  
I can see my reflection with a tear in my eye

For it is my lot and yet I feel wasted  
Worn out, bruised and battered  
Hurt beyond all repair in the cyanide of a  
broken dream

Poisoned by vitriol and virtue  
Condemned to a pallor comparison of life  
Not living but existing in the folly of my  
youthfulness

For the folly of youth is a party and the folly of  
age is war  
Yet where is the wisdom in suffering?  
Where is the meaning in pain?

So I ponder on the futility in myself  
And I end up screaming at the sky and cursing  
the moon  
Trying to tear down the walls that I have built  
around myself  
To shut out the hurt and the pain that's inside  
my soul

Yet where is my God when I need him most?  
Where is my Christ when I'm being crucified?  
I'd favour the company of wolves if there is  
nothing else

So I resign myself to a loner's curse  
Forever to be  
Forever alone

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## September 1993

### Did You?

Did you say that you loved me?  
Ha! I don't believe you  
Will you hold my hand when my soul is in  
tatters?  
When that happens  
Then I'll believe you

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### Fragile Heart

I ponder upon the futility of my striving  
Yet I shall forever strive to reach out  
To touch a heart that beats in time  
In time with mine

And it's so hard to see when it's dark  
And the cold wind blows out my torch  
Yet it still glows with crimson embers  
Waiting to flare up once more

So I see the candy skies that surround  
This bone china heart of mine  
And with daggers in my eyes  
I perceive all of that which is true

For the futility of love may destroy  
My fragile heart  
And yet I shall ever be yearning  
For a woman's touch

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What is Love?

What is love unless it is all-giving?  
What is it worth if the person that you're giving  
it to  
Is holding something back?

What is love when it's full of pain  
And you're putting on a brave face  
For the rest of the world to see?

Yet is it not folly to love someone  
Who cannot love you back  
But for all the love you give her  
She just spits it back in your face?  
What is love without all the pain  
The suffering and the heartbreak?

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I had a Dream

Last night I had a dream  
That I would find a woman  
Who would love me  
For just being myself  
So I hold onto that dream  
But it's so hard when all you see  
Are women who would leave you  
Like a rat leaves a sinking ship

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A Jester am I

I look at my reflection in the mirror  
And I cry for what I see  
I laugh out loud like a jester  
When I'm silently crying inside  
And I play out this harlequin's masquerade  
For all to see  
But what I'm really scared of  
Is showing the real me

So what is it that shapes the attitudes  
Of man towards his own kind?  
Who can fathom this great mystery  
And come out with a word of wisdom?  
For is it not a sign of weakness  
To hide behind a façade?  
Is it not a sign of cowardice  
To hide your emotions?

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The Great Artist

As I look towards the past I see the shadow of  
what I was  
For it is not what I have changed but what has  
changed me  
Yet I cannot explain the rational of this  
metamorphosis  
As my mind is not made up of the words that  
describe the reasons for this change

So I resign myself to the knowledge of my  
existence  
To ponder on the meaning without finding the  
answers  
To come to the conclusions for the way that I  
am formed  
Yet it is my lot to ask the unaskable  
To fathom the eternally unfathomable

It is like dropping a stone down a chasm in the Atlantic

Waiting for the sound as it hits the bottom  
Like sending a satellite to the very stars  
To see if it would find the edge of the universe

Most people say that I am a child trapped in a man's body

And sometimes I may agree with them  
Yet I say that I am a man trapped in a child's body

As I have outgrown my years

Not scanty am I in knowledge  
And there is wisdom in my heart  
Yet how can I question God's creation  
When I wasn't there at the very beginning?

Can a Pablo Picasso ever compare with the beauty of creation?  
And could Mozart ever have composed bird song?  
These are the things I can never fathom  
Yet this is my lot and I am glad in it

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#### Would You?

Would you hold my hand when my soul is in tatters  
And the world around me is falling apart  
Would you hold my hand when I am crying  
And it seems like only yesterday I was still in one piece  
Would you be there for me  
When others have gone away  
Would you still be there when I am old  
And the years on my mind have taken its toll  
Would you be my strength when I am weak  
And I am shaken to my very soul  
Would you?

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#### I Am Scared

I am scared of dogs  
Especially those that snarl and growl  
I am scared of growing old  
And having no one to share it with  
I am scared of falling  
And not being able to pick myself up  
I am scared that I will always be alone  
Not having someone special in my life  
I am scared of fathering children  
Knowing of what must come very soon  
I am scared that society is getting sicker  
That it is a sign of the end times

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#### Who's Sane?

Why do people make a fuss  
When you're not the same  
Is it because they cannot see  
That you're the one who's sane?

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#### Sat Outside

I sit outside my room  
Looking towards my door  
And I'm thinking things over  
Wondering what I'm doing here  
  
My head is in my hands  
Nestling on my palms  
There's a Bible at my feet  
Opened at Ephesians

I lift my hands to God  
And there is a rushing wind  
That moves through my soul  
Filling me with peace

A song fills my heart  
I think it's called  
"This is my desire"  
And I sing it to myself

So I'm sitting by my bedroom door  
With a Bible at my feet  
I'm singing songs to the Lord  
Resting in perfect peace

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#### Pity Things Change

What am I here for?  
Why do things remain the same  
When you're down on your knees  
And someone kicks you in the face?

So I imagine myself away from here  
To a place I once lived  
Where people spoke words I could not hear  
Nor could I understand them  
I was in my own world  
They were in theirs  
Just the way they should be  
Pity things change

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## November 1993

#### In the Closet

Sometimes it's hard to be honest with yourself  
When you're trying to look after this self  
And you are forever doubting your sexuality  
When will I ever be free?

Walking through life hiding in a closet  
Not wanting to face the facts  
Trying not to fall and sin  
I've got something to prove  
And I've got something to say  
That I'm still a man.

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#### Inside My Mind

The clouds roll over inside my mind  
To reveal a shining light beacon  
My thoughts fly through the air  
On wings of pseudo-insanity  
Yet there is no reasoning  
Behind a façade of knowledge

Where is the wisdom without the folly?  
And who can judge what is sanity  
Unless they've been on the other side of  
madness?  
And what is sanity in the world of the insane?

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Don't

December 1993

Don't you dare say that you loved me  
Because I know it's not true  
Don't say that you want me  
Because I don't want you

Don't show me any affection  
I can see straight through your lies  
I know that you want a lover  
With blonde hair blue eyes

I'm sorry I don't reach all your ideals  
That's just the way I am  
I'm not afraid of showing weakness  
Just as long as I can

So walk away from this lover  
Move straight onto another  
No I don't care  
I don't give a damn  
It wouldn't matter anyway  
At all

I should have seen it from the very start  
That I never really had your heart  
But what can I do to make you see  
That all the time you're hurting me?

Walk away from here  
Don't you ever return  
No I don't care  
I don't give a damn  
Just walk away  
And don't you dare return

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I'll be seeing You Again [Folk Song /  
Original]

Hello my friend  
It's been a long time  
We used to laugh when the air was free  
But all things change  
We've grown older  
And I know I'll be seeing you again  
Yes I'm sure I'll be seeing you again

Hello my friend  
Whatever happened?  
We had a love that shouldn't have died  
But here we are  
A little wiser  
And I know I'll be seeing you again  
Yes I'm sure I'll be seeing you again

Hello my friend  
It's been a long time  
I bet you can't remember my name  
It's not that hard  
My name is Philip  
And I know I'll be seeing you again  
Yes I'm sure I'll be seeing you again

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