

## HOME BOUND

Home bound

Home trapped

A home to escape into

A home to return

to nothing.

For nothing has changed

but you

Second national lockdown

since spring.

You are more drained,

More restless and anxious,

More tired.

Tired of facing brick walls,

Tired of missed starts,

Tired of mistaken connections.

Misled, once again, by

False promises and deceiving smiles

Until the reckoning came

and exposed all the darkness within.

'It is what it is', you say

'Try to adapt',

'Try to be resilient',

but I feel tired.

I am tired of being served

carefully crafted illusions

instead of solutions.

## CHILDREN IN NEED

(Inspired by Marcus)

Caught

In the innocence of

Children's brave affection,

Scared by their great need,

Now,

Tomorrow,

At Christmas.

No food to eat.

Have some compassion.

These are hard times,

Trying,

Testing,

Exposing

The simplest truths.

Forgive me

For saying it again...

It is so obvious...

The great advantage of being alive

is

to love

to befriend

to care.

Here is the secret

Children do share.

## GARNERING ALL THAT MATTERS

He had meant to do great things  
Now he is standing  
In front of the window  
Looking at  
Deserted streets and  
Gloomy faces with colourful masks.

Seeing limits that  
Did not exist in the past  
Limits no one could have foreseen.  
Pondering again and again  
On what has so painfully  
Struck the world since spring.  
Mistrusting the present,  
Mistrusting the future,  
Mistrusting himself.

'Some persons hold', he thought,  
Remain unbroken  
Even during the heaviest shocks  
To the system.

He turned away from the window  
And  
Helplessness gave way to gentler thoughts  
He knew he had support to lean on  
That he was loved  
Seemed  
Impossible to question.