

handiwork

(Classical economists tended to refer to the 'unseen hand of the market' as an explanation for the unregulable 'natural' operation of capitalism, a theory challenged, to a greater or lesser extent, by virtually all commentators, both socialist and social democratic ,who claimed to be to the left of centre. Until 'New Labour', 'Blairism', and beyond, that is.)

th unseen hand reachd out nd stole th skills
then claspd deft fingas t th dred machine
it forced th peopl from th commonhills
n plantid penuri where crops had been

it smircht th sky where once flew swift nd lark
n stript th forest bare v bark nd leaf
it plunjd th valleys in t constant dark
n by its grasp inflictid fear nd grief

this that oldman told me in my prime
when I was strainin t be wordliwise
seeking truths set firm in place nd time
not some cloudcuckooland beyond th skies

then he told me in his surefoot way
v forces rising from th furnace fire
combining t reclaim th waking day
nd garner justice from oppression's mire

from these forces came th will t strive
t combat falsehood nd t conquer greed
n gain th means by which we all could thrive
nd so produce what working peopl need

so well he taught from deep within his heart
ideas so complex spoke in words so plain
f he himself had playd his active part
he'd marchd in hunga nd he'd fought in Spain

now they tell me that old man was wrong
nd his bold thoughts were simplmindid dreams
no comrade these days sings his ancient song
or heeds th texts v his old-fashioned themes

there is no need f anger or f rage
no need t organise or march or fight
no need f class in this post-modern age
in this new thirdway garden v delight

no need f struggl now we all are seen
t be held equal , or t be upset
that trivial drivel blathers from th screen
while neo-nazis stalk th internet

no need t let this cruel world get y down
just go n get some therapi instead
or clap bland speechiz in a seaside town
nd let them spinnindoctas have their head

f histori they say is at an end
nd multinationals are th peoplz friend

n joan's th pope
n jon's th queen v may

nd I
 like you
 was not born yestrday