

Bards in the Bog

Chosen by Shetland Library staff and their Reader-in-Residence. Learn more at www.shetland-library.gov.uk

TAKING THE FIFTH

There was famine in Africa and I cocked my ear
Towards the land of the free for assurances of aid.
Nothing.

There was genocide in Asia and I leaned my head
Towards the home of the brave for promises of peace.
Nothing.

There was war in the Middle East and I strained to hear
The words that would bring liberty and justice for all.
Nothing.

Just the echo of a whisper in the arresting emptiness,
For those of a weaker constitution.

You have the right to remain silent.

Andrew Lane

Readers in Residence is developed and administered by Shetland Arts Development Agency and part of Creative Scotland's Creative Futures programme <<http://www.creativescotland.com/investment/creative-futures>>: promoting, connecting and developing Scotland's creative practitioners.

