

Seemed to float from the door
Of the packed cathedral

Like blossoms on slow water. simile

The common funeral

Unrolled its swaddling band, boxing

Lapping, tightening

Till we were braced and bound

Like brothers in a ring.

funeral personified

imagery from Funeral Rites

★ Global ideas on a local level

★ POLITICAL MOMENT

unity + community → localised environment

But he would not be held

At home by his own crowd

Whatever threats were phoned. IRA phoning in the imminent threat

Whatever black flags waved.

I see him as he turned

In that bombed offending place.

Remorse fused with terror

In his still knowable face. ★

His cornered outfaced stare

Blinding in the flash. capturing a single moment

he imagines things → moments

stop the race: cars DANGER

characteristic of this moment

★ filmic

He had gone miles away

For he drank like a fish

Nightly, naturally

Swimming towards the lure

Of warm lit-up places.

The blurred mesh and murmur

Drifting among glasses

In the gregarious smoke.

How culpable was he

That last night when he broke

Our tribe's complicity?

'Now you're supposed to be

An educated man.'

I hear him say. 'Puzzle me

The right answer to that one.'

transformation of simile into a metaphor

★ evocative of environment

did he deserve it?

persona: who deserves blame?

III

I missed his funeral,

Those quiet walkers

And sideways talkers

Shoaling out of his lane

To the respectable

Purring of the hearse... ellipsis suppression, a pause

They move in equal pace

With the habitual

Slow consolation

Of a dawdling engine.

The line lifted, hand

Over fist, cold sunshine

On the water, the land

Banked under fog that morning

When he took me in his boat,

The screw purling, turning

Indolent fathoms white,

I tasted freedom with him.

To get out early, haul

Steadily off the bottom,

Dispraise the catch, and smile

As you find a rhythm

Working you, slow mile by mile,

Into your proper haunt

Somewhere, well out, beyond...

moving out into a shallower part

fishing

★ funeral → moment on boat

linked to boat

★ transition via sound

→ sound made by rolling water

lazy

★ reverent tone w/ fishing

slowing down

←

→ he belongs w/ the water