

Land of the Mountain and the Flood

by Alan Laing

Beinn Achaladair the mountain of the soaking field

Mullach Cadha Rainich the top of the dripping pass

Beinn na Lap the boggy mountain

Meall nam Peitherin the hill of the thunderbolts

Rain from Heaven rain from Hell,

Rain on mountain rain on fell,

Cuts through soil cuts through stone,

Cuts through flesh into the bone.

Sodden lochan, clag-soaked crag,

Slurping bog and black peat-hag.

Soak and seep and drench and drain,

Water shed then shed again.

Mountains formed to gulp and swallow

Spew into each dip and hollow

Gullies flood, burns pour,

Thunder echoes torrent roar.

Water-colour

Water-mark

Water light

Water dark,

Water-logged

Water-tight,

Water day

Water night.

Rain that softens, moistens, feeds,

Finds its way to deepest seeds,

Water falls, water rises,

Day and night the land baptises.