

Mountain Writing Competition 2021

Poetry 2nd prize

First Ascent

By Martin Goldie

I live and work in Cowal and am an active member of the Argyll Mountaineering Club, using the inspiration of Mountain Landscape for my poetry.

Awake at last from hopeless sleep
Stamped painful heat to blue bruised feet,
And from that hard earned airy ledge,
Breathless in rare mountain air,
West they gazed, beyond a host
Of dreaming ridges, stretching far
To distant pink tinged peaks,
Awakened from their restful sleep
By dawn's frail coral light.
In quiet reverence those tigers stood
In silent remembrance of times past,
Of friends lost, brothers, slight
Amid the mountain's might
High above norms drudging haste.
And on that lonely icy shelf
In that gorgeous moment shared,
Old friends pondered,
The ragged sweeping wide horizon
Boundless peace
The new day's early promise,
Reflected in the sparkling stillness
Of fresh draped glistening slopes.
In the peace of that pink Himalayan dawn,

Before the coming storm engulfed,
They left their blue crisp frosted tent,
Climbed slowly to that crystal prize,
Descent to death near certain.