

Is truagh nach rugadh dall mi

Le Uilleam Ros

Sèist

Fil ò ro, fil ò ro, fil ò ro hug èile;

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Air fail èile ò agus hò ro hug èile;

Chan fhaigh mi cadal sàmhach, a ghràidh, 's gun thu rèidh rium.

I can't sleep peacefully, love, without you reconciled with me.

Rann 1

Is truagh nach d' rugadh dall mi gun chainnt is gun lèirsinn,
It's pity I was not born blind, without speech and without knowledge,
Mus fhac' mi d' aghaidh bhaindidh rinn aimhleas nan ceudan,
Before I saw your womanly face that brought misfortune to hundreds,
Bhon chunnaic mi bho thùs thu bu chliùiteach do bheusan,
Since I saw you from the beginning, renowned were your virtues,
'S gum b' fhasa leam am bàs na bhith làthair às d' eugmhais.
It would be easier for me to die than to exist without your presence.

Rann 2

Is truagh nach robh mis' agus tus' far an iarrainn.
It's a pity that you and I are not where I would desire.
Sia na là is seachdain is seachd ochd bliadhna,
Six days a week for seven or eight years,
An seòmraichean glaiste le claidheanan iarainn,
In rooms locked with iron bolts,
Na h-uchraichean air chall agus dall bhith gan iarraidh.
The keys lost and a blind man searching for them.

Rann 3

Is truagh nach robh mi fàgail an t-saoghail seo ro chianail,
It's a pity I am not leaving this world so sad,
Bha dòchas faoin gam thàladh 's e 'n gaol rinn mo dhìobhail,
It was a vain hope that attracted me and it was love that caused my misfortune,
Ge fada bhuam a shiùbhladh tu rim bheò bhithinn riut dìleas,
However far from me you travel in all my life I will be faithful to you,
'S nuair thigeadh Là na Cruinne 's i Mòr Ros a dh' iarrainn.
And when the Day of Judgement comes it is Marion Ross I will look for.

fhaigh – get; **cadal** – sleep; **sàmhach** – peaceful; **ghràidh** – love; **gun** – without; **rèidh** – reconciled; **rium** – with me; **truagh** – pity; **rugadh** – born; **dall** – blind; **chainnt** – speech; **lèirsinn** – knowledge;

Mus – before; **fhac'** – saw; **aghaidh** – face; **bhaindidh** – womanly; **rinn** – did; **aimhleas** – ruination; **ceudan** – hundreds; **Bhon** – since; **chunnaic** – saw; **bho** – from; **thus** – beginning; **chliùiteach** – renowned; **bheusan** – virtues; **fhasa** – easy; **leam** – for me; **bàs** – death; **làthair** – existing; **às** – without; **eugmhais** – presence;

mis' – me; **tus'** – you; **far** – where; **iarrainn** – would desire; **Sia** – six; **là** – day; **seachdain** – week; **seachd** – seven; **ochd** – eight; **bliadhna** – years; **seòmraichean** – rooms; **glaiste** – locked; **claidheanan** – bolts; **iarainn** – iron; **uchraichean** – keys; **chall** – lost; **dall** – blind; **iarraidh** – searching;

fàgail – leaving; **saoghail** – world; **ro** – too; **chianail** – sad; **dòchas** – hope; **faoin** – vain; **thàladh** – attract; **gaol** – love; **rinn** – made; **dìobhail** – misfortune; **Ge** – however; **fada** – far; **bhuam** – from me; **shiùbhladh** – travel; **bheò** – life; **bhithinn** – I will be; **riut** – to you; **dìleas** – faithful; **nuair** – when; **thigeadh** – comes; **Là na Cruinne** – Day of Judgement; **Mòr Ros** – Marion Ross; **iarrainn** – look for;

A song of unrequited love. William Ross was born in Skye in 1762. He was educated in the Grammar School at Forres and later lived with his parents in Gairloch. In his teens he fell in love with Marion Ross, a older and distant relation from Stornoway. Marion had no interest in William and married an English sea captain and moved with him to Liverpool. William went on to be a celebrated Gaelic poet with several of his works referring to Marion. Popular belief has it that on the night of William's death in Gairloch in 1791 a gale blew open the door of Marion's house in Liverpool. As she went downstairs to close it her candle set fire to her nightdress and she died from the burns.