



**ERRIGAL**  
IAN JOYCE



<https://soundcloud.com/ianjoyce/singing-errigal>



your toupé  
your pink bald pate  
out of all proportion  
sun bursts shred sundry storms  
minted fields of sycophantic prose  
cyclop's gaze isosceles triangle fixed forever

spendthrift sanding the hills  
a factory of zephirs on a tin roof  
boom of rocket launchers and iPads

pompous poet  
pumping out iron  
fish faint fat flat fiddle sticks

stop!

phantasmagoria  
universal claptrap!  
bland bellicose verse!

eye in harness  
isosceles triangle  
hot air balloon rising slowly

slam poetry  
slam into the hills  
tiny traces of fuselage

look now  
gift horse  
on high almighty  
good for nothing git  
airy fairy fable gable gab



tillage of thorns  
moronic sleeplessness  
in the name of mother tongue

weigh down  
silage of hatred

crystal dots drenched shale  
hedgerows of thorns and glass

sleep now  
under my brow  
stately heavy-handedness

thrice trounced  
wintry thoughts  
an ominous sky

mother superior  
a donkey's cough  
surrogate mother  
a lamb's bleat

Täuschung  
Mutter Oberin  
in ewiger Ruhe  
mit schrecklichem Griff  
mit hochgezogenen Schultern  
mit harter Hand niedergeschlagen

ein Gedicht  
falle und falle  
ein gefürchteter Fluch  
eine Schicht rostiger Farne  
eine Kaskade aus Lärm und Trümmern  
Sturz in einen Strom aus Lärm und Geröll



hand me downs  
layers of dusty ferns  
mothers of mad fathers  
without zeros or noughts  
a lonesome stack of poems  
crystal briars bristling hedges  
portents of the promised lands

silent tresses  
blanket ferns

a donkey's cough  
a lonesome stack  
a lamb bleats  
a baby cries

cloud calculus  
lofty indifference  
scree facing crystal  
ledgers of injustices long ago  
craggy tundra tapering thorns

who is to know I ever lived here?  
bade farewell to famine and friends?  
clouds of distemper and ghee  
men and girls pirouette aloft  
fields of green and gold  
trails of sparkly lights  
specs of crystal  
the cliff face  
spills water

clouds wash themselves  
in winter approaching light  
weighed down with verbiage  
storms of light and cerulean blue  
sleep ignorant of heavy handedness  
search hedgerows unbroken promises  
tumble down wilderness  
cascade over my brow  
scree and shale





ominous skies  
wintry blasts  
in silence

hunch  
shoulders  
dreaded curses  
noughts and ones  
ones and noughts  
weighed against subterfuge

Mutter Oberin  
verprügelt hast du mich  
mit hochgezogenen Schultern  
in Hecken von Dornen und Glasscherben  
stürze ich in einen Strom aus Lärm und Geröll

in my note book  
crystal faces and scree  
craggy scripts tapering thorns

dance of the times  
shambolic hallelujah  
sub zero temperatures

irascible rain  
lofty indifference  
clouds clamor for justice  
who is to know we ever lived here  
clouds and winters long ago time begins to bide farewell  
summer sleighs family friends plough fields of gold distemper and ghee



man-girls  
rain icy dots  
demand attention  
cascades of sparks  
winter approaching light  
pirouette on the cliff's face  
wash above a garbage dump

search light  
tundra below  
heavens above  
drenched downpour  
almighty materials weighed down  
hedgerows of thorns and broken glass

let me go to sleep now  
enjoin your stateliness

shoulders sag  
skies tumble  
time lapses

my donkeys cough  
my mother superior  
my surrogate mother  
my noughts and ones

Gedicht über Nullen und Einsen  
na sceacha gan bhrí agus casta  
luigh go ciúin faoi shuaimhneas síoraí

le do lámh chrua  
do ghreim uafásach  
in easghluaiseacht de thorann nialas

pléasc an gheimhridh  
dán faoi nialais agus aonta



eine Halde  
schlag mich nieder  
bedeutungslos und kaputt  
Zeichen für deine Versprechen Mutter  
Hecken aus zerbrochenem Dornenglas

in ewiger Ruhe  
winterliche Gedanken

eine braune Schicht rostiger Farne  
ein Gedicht über Nullen und Einsen  
eine Kaskade aus Lärm und Trümmern

daughter of a fearful father  
dust your ferns with zeros and noughts  
your hand me down portents of promised lands

terrifying signs of an hereditary curse  
tales whispered in a donkey's cough  
lonesome stacks silenced tresses  
lamb bleating a baby's cry

note books  
russet prayers  
lofty indifference  
face irascible rain  
tundra of tapering thorns  
shorn of scree and crystal  
tuesday after palm sunday  
clouds awry in a parliament of skies

either long ago or long before the justices dragged  
who ever was known to have ever lived there  
the lowly clouds below bags of cement  
after stratospheric bemusements  
bade farewell to family friends  
fields of green and gold  
golden moments  
wintry sketches



on the cliff face  
cerulean words  
sparkling lights  
labours of love  
specs of crystal under spilling rain  
paper hats above a garbage dump  
whispering winds of change and illusion  
a smiling president with a head without a corpse  
an armistice of clouds rides high on sundry storms  
snow white dwarfs sun themselves in winter approaching light

crooked  
weighed down

slag heap  
slag me off  
mother superior  
search the hedgerows  
proofs of your innane promises

in silence tumble down  
noughts and ones  
man and donkey  
ominous skies  
ferns

voller Täuschung  
Halden von Schlacke  
Mutter Oberin Vater Oberin  
mit Worten verprügelt hast du mich  
in den Hecken such nach Dornen und Glasscherben  
Beweis für deine sinnlosen und gebrochenen Versprechen

unheilvoller Himmel  
lass mich in Frieden schlafen  
liege still bei mir in ewiger Ruhe  
ein Gedicht über Nullen und Einsen  
eine Explosion winterlicher Gedanken  
Männer und Esel und der gefürchtete Fluch





kriech entlang der braunen Schicht aus verrosteten Farnen  
mit harter Hand und schrecklichem Griff schlugst du  
mich nieder mit hochgezogenen Schultern  
stürze ich in einen Strom  
aus Lärm und Geröll

spéir uaigneach  
luigh go ciúin liom faoin tsíoraíocht  
pléasc smaointe an gheimhridh

go ciúin  
lig dom codladh  
do ghreim uafásach  
athair casta go deo  
faoin nialais agus aonta

schlag mich nieder  
Zeichen für deine Versprechen  
Männer und Esel der erbliche Fluch  
ein Gedicht über Nullen und Einsen  
eine Kaskade aus Lärm und Trümmern  
Mutter liege ruhig bei mir in ewiger Ruhe  
in den Hecken von zerbrochenem Dornenglas

let go your terrible grip  
cascade of scree  
and silence

winter sledges  
broken hedges  
zero noughts  
glass briars  
mad father  
mad mother  
hereditary curse  
hard hearted grip  
cascade of silence



let her lie in her eternal dress  
layer of rust  
lonesome stacks

hand me downs  
my broken glasses  
Poems without zeros or noughts

lie quietly  
mother of a mad father

hard to let go  
your terrible grip  
cascade of scree

tales of men  
trails of an hereditary curse

hear eh haw eh haw  
a lamb bleating  
a baby crying

face of crystal and scree  
brown blankets of rusty ferns  
lonesome stacks of thoughts

skates of irascible rain  
clamoring for speech  
in parliamentary skies

fields of gold  
wintry farewell  
to family and friends

in high fields  
craggy scripts  
tapering thorns  
clouds of distemper and ghee  
sentinels pirouette on the cliff's face



clouds at peace  
confer with councillors  
snow and the white dwarfs  
listening to what I have to say  
sunning themselves in winter light  
magnanimous army of magniloquence

tundra below  
heavens above  
scree and shale  
sleep on storms  
of light

Mutter Oberin mit  
hochgezogenen Schultern  
mit einem Griff niedergeschlagen  
in einem Strom aus Lärm und Geröll

le greim crua  
agus lámh uafásach  
gluaiseacht easa  
pléasc an gheimhridh  
faoi nialais agus aonta  
torann agus smionagar

in Lärm und Trümmern  
lass mich ruhig schlafen  
einer Schicht rostiger Farne  
ein Gedicht über Nullen und Einsen



hard hats  
stacks of newspapers and stats

clouds convalescent  
charlatan's crypt  
my note book

fields departed  
patches of light

say farewell to family and friends  
lament of clouds bags of cement

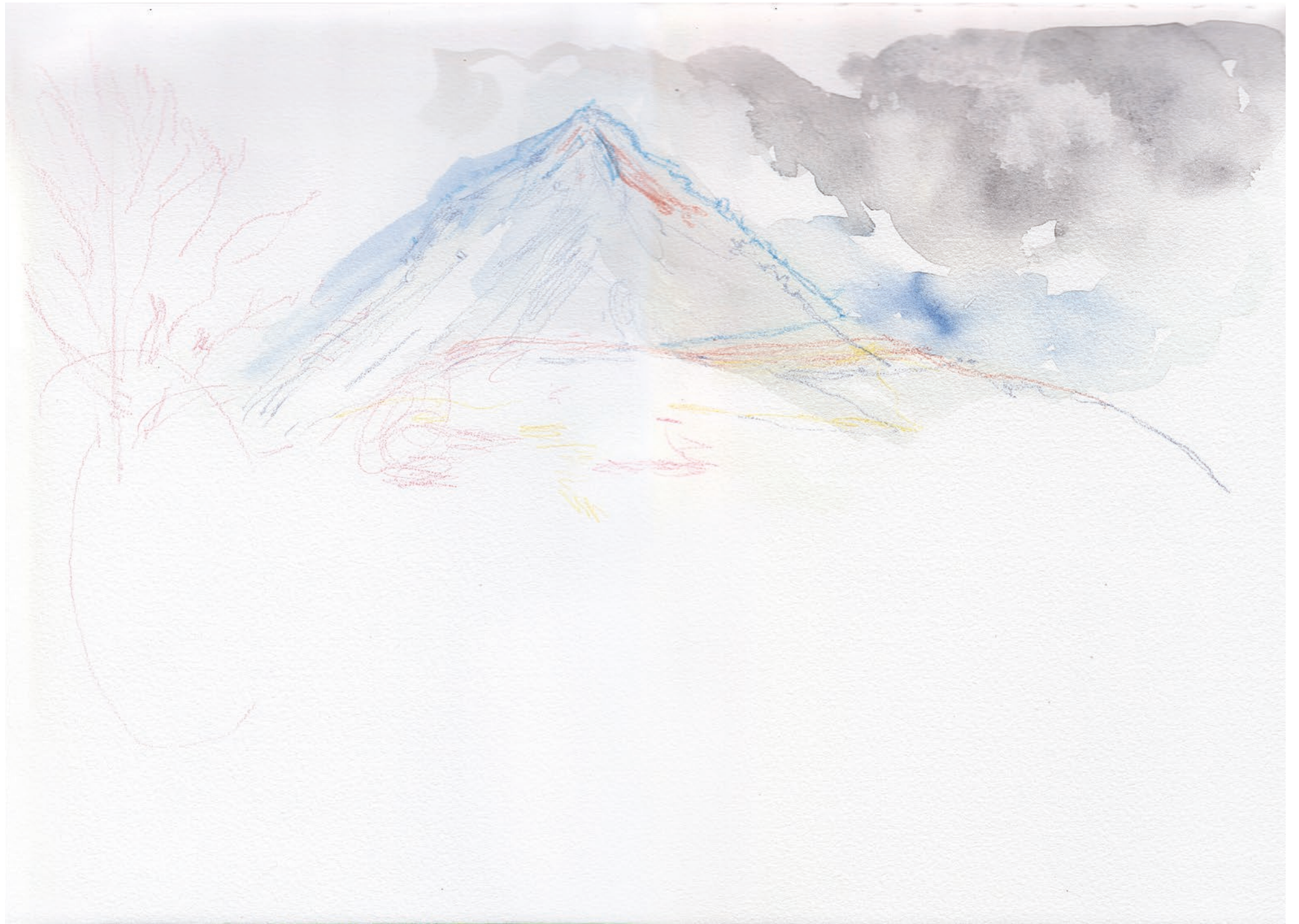
who is to know I ever lived here?

on the cliff face  
stacks of manuscripts  
hung out to dry a paper hat  
snow-white and white-as-snow  
weighed down with a downpour of thorns

for Heaven's sake  
don't let me go to sleep now  
my human cargo a cascade of shards  
passed down skies weighing  
your mountain shift  
of braken and browns  
mother my father

script of ferns  
shards of glass  
tundra of thorns  
whispering prayers  
mad mother mad father  
what if I had never lived here?  
across high-altitudes spots of light





wind changes  
pencil whispering  
surfaces scrubbed dry  
lessons in painting lyrical lines

president (a spin dry)  
wash out my clouds  
usher winter light  
across my page  
seagull down  
sandy beach  
far below

mark my words  
her baggage  
will collapse

surrogate mother  
let her sleep in her sumptuousness

an eyrie of light creeps across the prairie  
under roaring waterfall  
cruel hand of fate

wash me mother  
let me go now  
let me go to sleep again



