

Paradigm For Lasting Peace

My father is Ukrainian
my mother is Russian
my siblings are a mixture
and guess I am that too.
We live in Donetsk
with an apposite lifestyle
in a fifth floor apartment
with views of the steel works
wherever we look

where we slaved long hours
as did our forefathers
eked out an existence
modest yet comfortable.

We did not want conflict
we did not see it coming
we did not expect the bombs
and bloodshed too.
We don't know the drivers -
are they from Moskva or Kyiv?

While our children sweat scared
crammed together in bunkers
sing folk songs in unison when
incendiary rain falls in torrents.

And when we watch television
we hear politicians spout
each blaming each other for
the carnage and our pain
claim a cease-fire not observed
claim Donetsk as their own
but they will never own us
for we know our rights.

We voted for our freedom
that foreigners will not accept
while we seek cessation
of the war in Donetsk ...
and a paradigm for lasting peace.

Alun Roberts