

The Hero as Poet

By Peter Longden

Chooses words carefully for their meaning,
in rhythm and rhyme—bravely offering their insights,
their spotlights highlight thoughts and opinions
that matter to them, for and against—
a show, of course, the tour de force
putting the devastation of war to the fore
of poverty, climate change, the way politic,
of love, humour and the human spirit.

Not in the same essence as Sassoon—though death was all around
in pandemic years that locked down tears, with fears
still to find their way in a fragmented world.

Poet places pieces together to make sense of
the immense picture—the jigsaw might prove
more fun than the world it portrays;
yet Poet plots with empathy, courage, outstanding achievements, noble qualities,
the ability to choose the right words to suit the mood
of country in turmoil, or life in grip of strife.

Poem becomes the flags to wave—now, blue and yellow,
talk of entrenched heroes only known by what
Poet has shown in their poetic mix,
for themselves the expression of emotion,
for others to rally behind as mantra or song
sung or unsung its bravery is taken as read,

in poetry that salves the soul-reaching into its positive imagination
reaching out as a journal of yesterday's reckoning
once written or spoken or shared Poet has given all to the task,
removed the masque for Poem to take on their iconic role
as Hero keeping spirits up
prevent the world from being turned to shit.