

## **The Dragon and the Girl**

1.

### **The Girl**

The dragon has roared, he has crawled from his lair,  
And the heat of his breath has scorched the pure air.  
He has crowned himself God and has made his decree,  
Let others bow and cower, I will not bend a knee.

Death is the punishment he means to inflict,  
On those who would dare to defy his edict.  
But there are laws which are higher; ones I must obey,  
For the price of defiance is too high to pay.

Should I leave my dear brother to rot in the street?  
To be food for the dogs and the scavenger's meat?  
Our good name in the dirt, our honour in ruin?  
What of my duty to my God and my kin?

I'm compelled to ignore a law so unjust,  
I'll not give in to coercion, I'll die if I must,  
And go to my grave with a conscience that's clear,  
There was never a law like this passed anywhere!

2.

### The Dragon

She has broken the law, and she has been caught,  
She's stubborn, she's headstrong, and she must be taught  
That her duty is first to her state and her king,  
Rebellion in a woman is a dangerous thing.

Like the egg of the viper, revolt should be crushed,  
And the voice of dissent immediately hushed,  
So soon she will know the result of defiance,  
And the wisdom of feminine, submissive compliance.

She has spurned all entreaties, ignored good advice,  
She must have a death-wish, and has tried to entice  
Her sister to join her in this attack on the state,  
And now she will learn of the terrible fate

That awaits those who'd challenge the authority  
Of the appointed ruler, and that ruler is me,  
I am the state and as such I'm the law,  
And I expect everyone to regard me with awe.

3.

### Voices

Heaven has spoken and will have the last word,  
He who'd bury the living and leave the dead uninterred,  
Has been condemned to endure a living death,  
Cursing his stupidity with each painful breath,  
No woman will better me, he said, taunting,  
But he's been weighed in the balance and found wanting.