

2009

21ain Hydref 1966 / October 21st, 1966, by Aneirin *

Off to lessons, this morning like every other
Allies met on the way; hearsay, jokes and plans exchanged
Hushed and rushed to gather for assembly
The children sang All Things Bright and Beautiful

Fathers trudged off to war
The hardened, black enemy resolute against their onslaught
Trophies of the campaign ascended skyward
In silent witness to their victories

Mothers in flowered aprons and worn slippers,
Morning departure ceremonies concluded,
Paused for a cup of hot tea
With two sugars and blissful ignorance

The preacher down the lane began the day on his knees
As always, in covert conversation with his Creator
"Thank you, O Lord, for this day and its blessings"
The children sang All Things Bright and Beautiful.

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(At 9:15 am on Friday, October 21, 1966, a coal waste tip slid down a mountainside into the mining village of Aberfan in South Wales. The slide engulfed several houses and Pantglas Junior School. 144 people died in the disaster; 116 of them were schoolchildren.)