

2012

(Inspired by the brave and defiant actions of Reedsburg citizens [on behalf of their Native American neighbors and friends in 1873](#)):

Theme: Do the Right Thing

Gwnewch y Peth Cywir

Fy Nhroed Dde / (My Right Foot)

Along this unbroken journey, Of threescore years and a few odd, My Left, my Right and I together, With countless steps have trod. I thought we three would walk forever, Through endless day and night, But suddenly my Left and I, Must go on without our Right. The grief of misfortuned parting, Washed over us wave upon wave, As a hurricane drives the sea before it, Sweeping ev'rything away. Tho' somehow through loss and imperfection, We glean the grains of perfection we seek, While Light beyond each bend in the road, Gives strength to the weary and weak. So with thanks I bid farewell to Right, For it gave Left and I the chance, First to walk, then to run, And finally to dance. The memory of how we moved, Lives within, rehearsed and refined, As my Left, new Right and I together, Summon the dance, one step at a time.

Hafgan Medeni ** 2012

Poet's note: This poem was written for my friend, Joe Corbin, and his family after he lost his right foot in an accident in November of 2011. It took a lot of courage to do the right thing and make a very difficult decision in order to move forward with their lives. I didn't write the poem with the intention of sending it out into the world because their experience was a very personal one, but Joe's wife, Kim, suggested that I enter it in the Eisteddfod. In freely expressing the emotion surrounding great loss, perhaps healing can also be a shared experience.

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