

Prophet despised

“A prophet is only despised in his own country”

A Prophet who came from Darwen could very easily be despised.

By the people of Darwen who don't feel comfortable with praise.

With dower Lancashire custom

And I quote from a Maudlin Medley of 1878

Tween two hillsides, both bleak and barren

Lies lovely little “Dirty Darrun”

Do you expect a pop star to come from Dirty Darrun

Do you expect a prime minister

A scientist that solves a crisis

If you do not why not?

This is a wonderful place

I go on holiday to get away from the telephone

Not from Darwen

I see people lying on a beach

Because it is too hot to do anything else

They go on coach trips to see the countryside

Crammed into a busses for something to occupy the mind

They marvel at the wildlife and apparent relaxed nature of the local people

Here in Darwen we do not have dry sandy beaches

But we have beautiful green moorland

History surrounds us in the quarries, memorials, buildings, football teams, and chimneys based on
Venice

The wild deer wander down from Darwen Tower to eat the flowers of your garden

The foxes are never far away, and the falcons keep a jealous eye on their breeding nests

I have hopefully made you smile
But you don't take me too seriously
A Prophet is only despised in his own country

I have served in many place. Indeed even in different country's
I have lived with people who did not know where the next meal was coming from
I have worked with people who lived in a small local area and did not know each other
I have seen the pretence of wealth, were the house was a mansion and the family always gathered
in the kitchen.

Most of you have already planned your evening meal and have food in the fridge
They say kick one person in Darwen and at least ten people limp
This is not a rich area in terms of cash, but those who have enough, have access to considerable
wealth in other terms.

I have never known a place like this for old friends.

Hopefully I have made you smile
But you don't take me too seriously
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You watch the television which proclaims that Britain's got Talent

Darwen has Talent

You seek drama and engaging stories

Look to your own life

The birth of a child, a death, a crisis.

You see the grass growing greener on the other side

The grass is green in Darwen

Nowhere greener

From this place wonderful happenings can emerge

From these people wonderful example can be seen

From your lives wonderful blessings are expressed

Hopefully I have made you smile
But you don't take me too seriously
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But now I encourage you to change places with me

I encourage you
to be the prophet
Despite your doubts
Despite your learned cynicism
Despite all the challenges of honesty

Learn to see as Christ sees
Learn to proclaim as Christ proclaims
Recognise what you have
What we have
And enjoy
Enjoy
Enjoy.