Kenneth White

EARLY MORNING LIGHT ON LOCH SUNART

*« sunt lumina »*

(Johannes Scotus Eriugenas)

While 1 write this

a grey heron

is standing motionless

in the early morning light

of Loch Sunart

At the centre

of a ring of silence

a grey heron

only the waters rippling

(language dare not be loud this morning)

For still words (long Callen silent)

listen (if you will) to these :

*gheibhte bradan fioruisg ann*

*a' direadh ris gach sruth*

*eôin an t'-sléibh gu lionmhor*

A grey heron

watching, listening in

an early morning

glitter of waters –

maybe dreaming?

Fishing in nothingness

(that is one way of putting it)

here on Loch Sunart

bright falling of the year

quiet, so quiet

(Loch Sunart, Argyll)

The lines in Gaelic are from Duncan Ban Macintyre's Song to

Glen Orchy *(Oran Ghlinn Urchaidh)*, 18th century.