

Bards in the Bog



SGURR NAN GILLEAN

Ilka wee laddie wi' black beard, spike-haired
Gillean rising, pock-faced, rock-faced.
Gabbro-high bairns wi' swords drawn, flesh torn,
Gillean thrusting, flash-blade, flesh-flayed.

Warrior children, dark youth, sharp-toothed,
Gillean burning, fire-born, flame-drawn.
Gillean dearg as gillean dubh,
Gillean hardened, rock-melt, rock-Celt.

High-blown, high stone, wind-raked windbreak,
Scree-strewn scree dune, cloud-wrapped cloudtrap.

Gillean straining, highward, skyward, gillean strive, as gillean do.
Ilka lass seeking bold laddies, gold laddies, gillean dark or gillean true.

Andrew Lane

(Sgurr nan Gillean, the Peak of the Young Men, is one of the Cuillin of Skye.)

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