



Parrot Addenda

by Rogan Wolf

A short series of reflections on truth, honour and Brexit.

The series refers back to a long poem and satire called “Speak, Parrot” by the poet John Skelton. Skelton lived in the reign of Henry 8th, a time when another form of Brexit took place and speaking out was dangerous.

*“Parrot is my own dear heart and my dear darling...
I pray you, let Parrot have liberty to speak !”*



Parrot Speaks of a Pit bull

A keen environmentalist, Lord Rothermere
Admitted to the judge he should not have let
His pit bull befoul the park each morning. A fear
That tax havens were under increasing threat
From global warming etc made him forget
The black plastic bag he was supposed to use
To spare our children from his pit bull's poohs.

Parrot Speaks of the People's Will

Plug Maybot into the mains. She needs re-charging
With "The People's Will." It's done. Again she stands tall.
"Stuff parliament," she says. "I am enlarging
The People's role and only I and mine can tell
What half of them meant when they said go to hell.
We serve them, I and my gang of billionaires,
Hoodlums and fanatics, dregs and liars..."

Rogan Wolf
June 2018



Parrot speaks of the Law and Dust

The sky is cloudy, the coast is nothing clear.
Truth has put away her tresses of fine gold.
Selling and Spinning infest with their foul air
All the languages of our fractured world.
Creatures of the Lie have become so bold
They want Law and Justice as well as all trust
Under their sway. Our cities turn to dust.

Parrot speaks of Community and Dust

And it's busy, busy, busy, and busying again !
Que pensez-vous, Parrot ? How sane is our state ?
Deceit in Parliament deranges the brain,
But Truth and Honour just add to the hoodlums' hate ;
To secure control they'll tear our world apart.
Their trappings of greed, envy and worldly lust,
Parrot says plainly, lead nowhere except to dust.

Rogan Wolf
June 2018



Parrot Speaks of Youth and Hope

Like Parrot, the Truth is caged. Outside in the street
The Lie and all its creatures roar a glad song.
Up and down upon pampered horses they strut
Kicking the poor aside as they canter along.
Much money, we know, is spent for wrong
Purposes, for poor to stay poor, and pit bull on top
And caged is Truth, and Love, and Youth, and Hope.

Parrot speaks of the Brexit Agon (I)

Remember the start of this Agon ? Enter stage right
The Tories – their *Austerity*, their *Striver/Skiver*,
Their *harry the Poor*, all that. And their family fight,
Banging on about Europe. So Dave, being clever,
Said, “You know wot, the good of my Nation was never
My thought. This referendum meets my *Party’s* need” -
But he lost it. So Tory dysfunction spread Europe wide.

Rogan Wolf
June 2018



Parrot speaks of the Brexit Agon (2)

Off stalked the captain (he'd said he never would)
And now what a shipwreck we behold. A pit bull
Pushed Maybot onto the bridge. "Full steam ahead!"
She cried in glee. "Red White and Blue! The People
have Spoken! Bring Fox Hunting back! And Grammar
School!"

Then Flotsam Johnson and Jetsam Gove floated
Into view - and Maybot was hastily rebooted.

Parrot speaks of Dividends and Dishonour

And Maybot was hastily rebooted. "Depend
On me and my rabid old pit bulls to reach the best deal
For Britain..." And "Let's pretend a Brexit Dividend
And if that doesn't work, let's lie one..." And "Let me steal
Into your hearts with my doggedness and iron will
In pursuing the wrong course the wrong way, through day
After day after dishonourable day - Mayday, Mayday..."

*Rogan Wolf
June 2018*



Parrot Speaks True and Plain

Truth weighs heavy, says Parrot, but here I'll speak plain :
The EU referendum was neither true
Nor honest democracy. Bare lies and criminals "won"
And the result means nothing except that we
Are a nation split, mis-led and lost at sea.
Brexit's a lie, a bug with gilded wings,
A painted spawn of dirt, that stinks and stings.

Rogan Wolf
June 2018

Notes and References

The verse-form used for this short series of poems is Rhyme Royal. Most of John Skelton's "Speak, Parrot" uses the same form.

Parrot Speaks of a Pit Bull refers to the announcement during June 2018 that Paul Dacre, long-standing editor of *The Daily Mail*, would be stepping down later in the year. In considering the news, some writers suggested that, under Dacre, *The Mail's* strident propaganda against the EU and immigration etc had had a major influence over the Brexit vote. *The Mail's* owner is Lord Rothermere whose affairs are reliably reported to depend quite heavily on tax havens such as Jersey and Bermuda.

Parrot speaks of the People's Will. Theresa May (and others) keeps using phrases like "The People have spoken" or "The People's Will," as if these in themselves will lend authority and credence to the words' speaker, battling on the "People's" behalf. And somehow that phrase "The People," repeated many times, begins to imply "everybody," or everybody that matters. But 52% of a mere percentage is neither "everybody" nor everybody that matters and the validity and integrity of that 52% figure is itself ever increasingly in question. And Theresa May's government does not even have a working majority with which to "deliver Brexit" and she has had to buy it unilaterally by paying the DUP a billion pounds for their support - the DUP's own Brexit Dividend. So not the "People" Will" - rather a dodgy and disreputable series of manipulations and abuses.

The three poems **Parrot Speaks of Law and Dust, ...of Community and Dust** and **...of Youth and Hope** all borrow phrases from Skelton's "Speak, Parrot." For an illustrated reading of some of my translation of that poem into modern English and England, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lm4ilU5QIGk> For the text of the full translation, see <https://roganwolf.com/wp-content/uploads/Skelton-Speak-Parrot-in-full-latest.pdf>

Parrot Speaks of Dividends and Dishonour refers to Theresa May's public commitment in June 2018 to finding ways to increase funding to the NHS, and her claim that the money to do so would come from the "Brexit Dividend." This was a hapless and disreputable attempt to give credence to the promise writ large on the red-painted Brexit campaign bus and, since then, conclusively exposed as a deliberate lie. It is clear that there will be no Brexit Dividend.

Parrot Speaks True and Plain makes reference to the ending of "Speak, Parrot" and in a small way follows it. Skelton's poem has the parrot being finally persuaded to come out from behind his hints and sophisms and name his matter, "true and plain."

The last couplet of all here is beholden to the work of Alexander Pope - perhaps Britain's greatest poet of satire. It includes a quote - almost exact - from Pope's "Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot."

Rogan Wolf