

## Celtic Poetry into Visual Art

Read through these Celtic Poems, and create an image for one of them. Think deeply about what the poet is saying to us.

### A Celtic Blessing

May the road rise up  
To meet you.

May the wind be always  
At your back.

May the sun shine warm  
upon your face.

May the rain fall soft  
upon your field,

And until we meet again.  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

### A Celtic Prayer

Deep peace of the  
running waves to you.

Deep peace of the  
flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the  
quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the  
shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the  
Son of Peace to you.

### An Irish Blessing

May there always be work for your hands to do;

May your purse always hold a coin or two;

May the sun always shine on your windowpane;

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;

May the hand of a friend always be near you;

May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer  
you.

### Lost

Hollow footsteps, cloaked by night  
Of sadness known through tortured sight;  
The willow weeps for solitude  
As Owl moans a gloomy interlude.  
- Reflection in the glossy lake  
"If I should die before I wake..."  
A tear shatters the silent face  
That seeks solace in this deserted place.  
Wind whispers through the willow's leaves,  
And Owl, perched high, silently grieves.  
The glow from city lights afar  
Swallow whole a falling star.  
A wish upon the trembling lips  
For peace. A raven gently sips  
The water near his honored guest,  
But soon flies to his hidden nest.  
Weary beneath the flowing cloak,  
The traveller rests against an oak  
And fights the lure of heavenly sleep  
-"I pray the Lord my soul to keep..."

Forever lost, each journey taken  
Plagues the mind; the nights awaken  
Troubled visions, thoughts of yesterdays,  
That seem like beacons - lives away.  
Random comforts cannot ease this soul,  
For knowledge takes its weary toll  
'Pon one who suffers with each breath,  
Who slept once in peace, then awoke in death..

*New Moon* - In Celtic culture, the new moon was greeted in this fashion:

May thy light be fair to me!  
May thy course be smooth to me!  
If good to me is thy beginning,  
Seven times better be thine end,  
Thou fair moon of the seasons,  
Thou great lamp of grace!  
He Who created thee  
Created me likewise;  
He Who gave thee weight and light  
Gave to me life and death,  
And the joy of the seven satisfactions,  
Thou great lamp of grace,  
Thou fair moon of the season