

# 81 Witches of Prestonpans – Pardoned They Are

## A RED LAMBENT FLAME – THE WITCHES O’ PRESTONPANS

A’ Ye whae stand here now  
remembering them,  
remember this!

We have numbered the 81 innocents  
whaes ignorance broked no bliss,  
all brent wi’a red lambent flame  
or chokit for mercy first  
whaes scattered ashes  
are now dust of dust.

Remember the Baron Gordon’s Pardon  
for those marked by this night  
and witness tae this balance  
of a cruel wrong with right.

“PARDONED THEY ARE”  
But for the hypocrites whae lied  
there is no place tae hide  
burnt witches  
in the pages o’ history

And the likes o’ Jamie Saxt  
“The Wisest Fool in Christendom”  
Were soaked  
wi’ the blood o’ the ancients  
all killed for lies  
extracted fiendishly  
by Lucifer’s sharp devices  
and his spies.

And now the murderers’ souls  
fly crow-feathered  
ower the bald hillocks  
where innocents perished  
by the score.

Do not forget the outrage  
on thae puny wummen,  
wretched marionettes jerking  
in the stinking tar barrel  
o’ mens’ politics and manoeuvring

And spare us still the feigned piety  
o’ God’s self-appointed officers  
whae roped tae a merciless Kirk  
performed their deeds  
tae the slow hand clap  
o’ sickened Angels.

Aye, where lay the latitude o’ mercy then?  
the man o’ conscience cries!  
The witch-kinds’ doom  
was sealed and linked  
In a chain o’ filthy lies.

And the restless hunger o’  
the witch seekers  
still rustles the leaves  
on the laurel tree

And the hauf-mad clergy  
showed no Savior’s refuge  
tae the victims o’  
the Tartar eyes  
o’ watchful human demons  
whae wi’ herts o’ Lammermuir-lions  
and dempsters’ venal minds  
ill-persecuted Faedom  
and doomed their harmless kind.

So the clouds were shut to mercy  
when their final sparks  
flickered and died like fireflies  
under acrid skies  
in a land o’ nae gramultion  
that heeded not their cries.

*Remembrance Day*  
*October 31st*

*John Lindsay*

Poet Laureate to the Barons of  
Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun