

## **Hamilton Palace Please**

Our Father, who art in Heaven -  
is this the right way to petition you?  
Am I even addressing the right person?  
The One who can make things happen?  
Cos if not, I'm wasting my time.

Forgive me if I've sent this to the wrong person.  
Oh, and forgive all my trespasses too,  
also, I don't actually believe in you  
but reckon nobody down here has a hope in Hell  
of getting any of my requests done,  
what with the pandemic and politics and stuff.

Speaking of which, it's not my main request  
but if you could do your magic - unobserved  
so you don't freak everyone out,  
no thunderbolts, or voices from clouds please -  
and wipe out Covid-19,  
global warming, war, racism, sexism, the other isms  
inequality and poverty too, oh and loss of biodiversity,  
that would be cool

but I figure you have loads of true believers  
requesting these of you a million times a day,  
and you'll look much more favourably towards their requests  
than one from a heathen like me.

So, to my specific petition.  
I live in Hamilton  
Which, being omniscient, you already knew.  
It's a lovely place  
but parts of it have been a bit -  
you don't mind if I swear, do you? -  
fucked up over the years.

Could you knock down the Bairds building at the Top Cross  
and put back the Tollbooth that used to be there?  
Built in 1642, it had a brilliant, spooky tower.

But if you do only one request  
rather than the more traditional, and obviously preferred, "three wishes" option,  
can you make Hamilton Palace reappear?  
It was pulled down in 1921 undermined by,  
well, mines underneath its foundations.  
It looks absolutely awesome in photos.

You'd have to move the retail park that's currently where it stood.  
Not sure where to put that, but I'd leave the details to you.

P.S. If you do this I'll definitely believe in you!

**Martin Stepek**