

Sheffielders

Strong as steel,
Stubborn as steel,
Silent as steel,
Sullen as steel?

No, not sullen

Although our silence may make it seem so.

Our silence is our strength

And our strength is our silence.

There is no bitterness because we despise self pity.

We know we are mistreated

And frequently we're cheated,

But silent acceptance of our lot,

Our fate,

Reflects awareness

This is how life is

Always has been

And always will be.

Acceptance and awareness make us strong.

So we don't set fire to buildings,

Throw rocks at our oppressors

Or march in our thousands.

We do not man (or woman) the barricades.

We do not shout from the rooftops

Our messages of injustice and inequality .

We do not wear our hearts on our sleeves

And plead for public inquiries

To expose truths we already know. We know that gestures never change the I
changeable.

THEY will never let it happen.

THEY, the faceless ones from other worlds.

Who pull the levers of power

With little thought or care

And certainly

No understanding of the consequences.

THEY may see our work-worn faces,

THEY will never hear the message of our silence.

THEY will give us nothing.

Not even what we're owed.

But our lives are too short and too precious to wallow in anger

In a world beyond our control.

Instead we look into our hearts in a way THEY cannot.

We look inwards at all we value

And all that we cherish.

We protect and nurture all that we have.

We glory in our history and our heritage,

The muck and the brass,

The blast furnaces and the tram-lines,

The little mesters and the buffer girls.

We defend our trees and we defend our cultures.

We embrace our writers

Our artists,

Our musicians.

We celebrate our winners

And support all those who cannot win.

Every one of our own
With the name
SHEFFIELD
Forged in every heart.
We care for our own,
We're proud of our own.
Our hearts burn in silence with pride
Because we know we are all a part of a wonder,
A wonder
That may be
mistreated
And frequently cheated,
But never, never
Defeated.
And so, with our stubborn strength and silence,
We celebrate our victory.
We know we shall never inherit the Earth,
We are content to be
The salt of the Earth.

Oliver Smith