

## Northwest Passage

### The Dreadnoughts

Westward from the Davis Strait  
'Tis there 'twas said to lie  
The sea route to the Orient  
For which so many died  
Seeking gold and glory  
Leaving broken, weathered bones  
And a long-forgotten lonely cairn of stones

Ah, for just one time  
I would take the Northwest Passage  
To find the hand of Franklin  
Reaching for the Beaufort Sea  
Tracing one warm line  
Through a land so wild and savage  
And make a Northwest Passage to the sea

Three centuries thereafter  
I take passage overland  
In the footsteps of brave Kelso  
Where his "sea of flowers" began  
Watching cities rise before me  
Then behind me sink again  
This tardiest explorer  
Driving hard across the plain

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And through the night, behind the wheel

The mileage clicking west  
I think upon Mackenzie  
David Thompson and the rest  
Who cracked the mountain ramparts  
And did show a path for me  
To race the roaring Fraser to the sea

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How then am I so different  
From the first men through this way?  
Like them, I left a settled life  
I threw it all away  
To seek a Northwest Passage  
At the call of many men  
To find there but the road back home again

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And make a Northwest Passage to the sea