

*Donald Adamson***Forebodings**

The ants that all summer long
foraged for queen and larvae
think on winter: mend their mound,
fix the roof, shore up crumbling walls
with scraps hauled from the forest.

Tap by tap woodpeckers hammer
seed-filled cones from a store
they filled to the full. They know what to expect
as the sun gouges the skyline
and dawn and dusk narrow down the options
and the air's sharp saw-edge cuts
more keenly day by day.

Thus all other creatures live and act
on their forebodings – so may we,
dismissing plans drawn up by fools
and knaves, believers in the infinity
of space, resources, time: schemes
that will surely cost the earth – unless –

– unless we end the madness
of everlasting growth and goods, return
to the ancient contract signed
with nature that is in us and around.

Donald Adamson is from Dumfries. He worked as a teacher of English in France, Finland, Iran and Kuwait, then spent several years working for Longman Publishing. In 1996 he returned to Finland to work as a lecturer in Finnish universities. He currently lives in Tampere, Finland. He has translated Finnish poems for *How to address the fog: Finnish poems 1978–2002* (Carcanet/Scottish Poetry Library, 2005), and *A Landscape Blossoms Within Me*, translations of the Finnish poet Eeva Kilpi (Arc Publications). His collection *All Coming Back* was published by Roncadora Publications (2019) and a collection in Scots, *Biold*, was published by Tapsalteerie in 2021. His awards include first prize in the Herald Millennium Competition (Adjudicator Edwin Morgan), the 2019 Scottish Federation of Writers Competition, and the Sangschaw 2022 Scots Translation Competition.