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## *The ship aground*

We have come over Tower Bridge over  
the river's silver over  
basculated stone, steel and we have  
curved, curled toward St Saviour's Dock,  
where monks walked, where Sikes fell,  
where now the narrow streets are silent  
in sunlight in high blue where  
old poverty meets new money where I am  
newly free on two wheels new swift  
curling, curving over cobble and tarmac  
past the brick-built pub just up  
from the water's edge.

The ship aground:  
mullioned windows, darkened glass, St George's  
flag still pinned by the pitch  
of the red-tiled roof, the ship aground  
cast up here on this shore  
of spring breeze and birdsong, anchored  
in shadow, the ship aground in lockdown,  
beerless beacon of better days, hithe  
as haven, holding all still till the tide turns and  
we pilgrims balanced at the water's edge can  
unfurl our sails, can set out for what we will call  
the new world.