

*Croagh Patrick*

After hiking out from Westport  
to the base of the mountain  
and lunching on Guinness  
and shepherd's pie, it seemed foolish  
to have come so far and not make  
the climb. You decided to wait  
at the bottom near the coffin ship  
monument, so I ran most of the way  
up, not wanting to keep you waiting  
too long. I passed pilgrims climbing  
barefoot, crawling on their knees,  
performing rites at various stations,  
ascending on a different plane.  
At the top I met our Argentinean  
friend and we posed for photos  
at the highest point, the Atlantic  
glistening in the distance behind us  
beneath rare blue summer skies.  
Running back down, I met you  
two-thirds of the way up, having  
changed your mind. I turned and followed,  
heading back up for the second  
unplanned ascent. We circled the chapel  
and sat silently for half an hour  
meditating and absorbing the view  
before descending and hiking back  
into town as the sky turned to dusk  
and Croagh Patrick disappeared  
into the darkness and distance behind us.

## *Tahrir Square*

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
the people oust a dictator  
in just eighteen days  
without resorting to violence  
The revolution is televised  
live on Al Jazeera  
as the crowd dances and sings  
in ecstasy and euphoria  
Civilians embrace soldiers  
paint graffiti on tanks  
Children are lifted into the air  
flags waved in jubilation  
and the people just can't stop  
smiling, struggling to believe  
that they succeeded at last  
that their perseverance  
has prevailed and Mubarak  
has fled to Sharm el Sheik  
Victorious protesters shout  
over the music of liberation  
into cell phones transmitting  
their message live via radio,  
*This is the happiest day of our lives!*

*Nathanael O'Reilly*