

## ***My Funeral***

*I hope I can trust you, friends,  
not to use our relationship  
As an excuse for an unsolicited ego-trip.  
I have seen enough of them at funerals  
and they make me cross.  
At this one, though deceased,  
I aim to be the boss.*

*If you are asked to talk about me for five minutes,  
please do not go on for eight  
There is a strict timetable at the crematorium  
and nobody wants to be late.*

*If invited to read a poem,  
just read the bloody poem.  
If requested  
To sing a song,  
just sing it, as suggested,  
And don't say anything.*

*Though I will not be there,  
Glancing pointedly at my watch  
and fixing the speaker with a malevolent stare,  
Remember that this was how I always reacted  
When I felt that anybody's speech,  
sermon or poetry reading was becoming too protracted.*

*Yes, I was intolerant,  
and not always polite  
And if there aren't many people at my funeral,  
it will serve me right.*