

# Runrig, Oran Ailein/Leaving Strathconon

"Oran Ailein"  
"Alan's Song"

Teine oidhche geamhradh  
'Nar sheasamh air an Iar  
Sheinn sinn Oran Ailein  
Seist is rann  
'S an treana ruith cho taibhseil  
Mar cuimhne tron ghleann  
'S iomadh loit nach tig slàn

--oOo--

By the fire of a winter's night  
Standing around the floor  
We sang Alan's song  
Verse and chorus  
And the train ran so ghostly  
Like a memory, through the glen  
There are many wounds that do not heal

"Leaving Strathconon"

We're the emigrant ones, not the last in the line  
You're your father's son, and I am mine  
And all of our northwards turn distant and small  
In the end they mean nothing, no, nothing at all

Right here's the river's source, and it flows out to the world  
And the heart of Caledonia is drowning in its flood  
Was there hunger in our striving, did the light shine in our dark  
Was everything we ever needed always right here from the start

(Chorus)  
Please believe me  
Something in me died  
Leaving Strathconon  
And your mountains behind  
Please believe me  
Something in me died  
Leaving Strathconon  
And your father's home behind

We stood on a hundred gangways, that's the way it's always been  
I walked out beyond Calvary with all my kith and kin  
In the war of the worlds we conquer and roam  
Lie the wounds that stay bleeding and raw in the soul

(Chorus)

After the raging flame, the embers burn slow  
We're leaving, leaving, leaving, till there's nowhere left to go  
The seas, the slums, the battlefields, the shipyards, the tides  
The straths, the glens, the drove roads, all the prairies and the mines

It's a still, autumn morning, and it covers Loch Meig  
And all the trees across the valley in a blaze of dying green  
I've seen too many tail-lights, didn't need to say goodbye  
We're just souls across a shrinking world in a distant starlit night

(Chorus)