

Streets, The "On the Flip of a Coin"

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From the point he gazed from the choice was made,
but 'walk the cave or the shore?'
The oily cave seemed to breathe on him through
gravestone jaws
His little hand grasped in anguish as he weighed up his
coin
Somewhere a blue-eyed girl in the world is just waiting
for a boy
Footprints trailed as if trod by slaves up to the grey
cave floor
But not one graze from anything ever escaping this fort
So with coin on hand his joy came back when ordered
to take the shore
'Why on earth', as he wandered the warmth, 'am I
obeying this coin?'

Turn your life on the flip of this coin
Turn upside a choice you'd normally avoid
And promise me you'll follow what it says
Whatever it says

Again, walk within the trusted beach or swim the swell
of the sea?
And again the scarier alternative looked like certain
death to he
He'd never learnt to skill of swimming - it never
occurred to be very easy
And again he winced as he flipped the coin and it
twirled to his feet
'How is this sane?' he blamed the coin now aiming for
the waves
As he hesitated at the swirl of water as it raged and
rained
Blue-eyed girls were waiting and he was drowning in
the spray
Blue-eyed girls he should have been acquainted with
but for shouting and flailing

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He finally slugs it back to land feeling chewed-up and
foolish
Empties his pockets on the sand spewing a pool each
Staggers back to his dad who's too cool to be
So he says 'why did you have me follow this stupid rule,
please?'
To be honest little fellow I'll tell you
I was just as afraid as you
But you said you wanted to get with people and places
ever new
And I got a bit scared of the fate of my baby son's
future
So I invented a reason to see if you could ever make do
As soon as you appeared behind that rock looking
angry at me
I soon realised what a hell of a man you've ended up
being
I knew you'd worked out how to swim, which I hadn't
had in me
And I stand as a companion of you, proudest a man
has ever been

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