

ii *The coming of the Dinosaurs.*

A dinosaur came - of gargantuan girth.
She was ready to grovel and beg.
She asked for a soft overgrown plot of earth:

For I fear I may (th)oon lay an egg!

Only then did the dinosaur recognise
the smirking lips and scheming eyes
of a highly skilled and charming snake:

*Might I recommend
a lonely isle on a distant lake
with a faithful friend?*

From time immemorial snakes had agreed,
as our lady friend figured too well,
that dinosaur eggs were a tasty feed –
both the slithery bits and the shell -
and sadly aware of her limited choice
she spoke with a scornful edge in her voice:

No doubt you have a pri(th)e in mind.

The snake with a diffident smile
began to stealthily unwind:

*The very suggestion
of payment is out of the question!
Utterly vile!*

Then up from the valleys, down from the trees,
out of hedges rivers and seas
came an obscenely slithering hoard,
but the dinosaur raised her big flat feet
and swivelled her head and loudly roared
and at this unfamiliar sound
the snakes politely yielded ground,
contemplating swift retreat.

There are differing views as to how it all ended.
The snakes insist that friendship was intended
with an occasional bite - nothing worse -
but the dinosaurs have always said:

*(D)ey're a fil(t)y and mean diabolical cur(th)e
and (th)oon we'll all be dead!*