

THE THRONE - Queen Elizabeth II Coronation



THE THRONE

**The crown translates a woman to a Queen
endless gold, circling itself, an O like a well,
fathomless, for the years to drown in - history's bride,
anointed, blessed, for a crowning. One head alone
can know its weight, on throne, in pageantry,
and feel it still, in private space, when it's lifted :
not a hollow thing, but a measuring ; no halo,
treasure, but a valuing ; decades and duty. Time gifted,
the crown is old light, journeying from skulls of kings**

to living Queen.

Its jewels glow, virtues, loyalty's ruby

blood-deep ; sapphire's ice resilience ; emerald evergreen ;

the shy pearl, humility. My whole life, whether it be long

or short, devoted to your service. Not lightly worn.

Carol Ann Duffy CBE FRSL (b. 1955) Poet Laureate

Ann Duffy