

NEW YORK ARRIVAL

Map in the mind

Territory in the body

Culture endless

Literary references galore

Took me

61 years plus

To move from

Printed word

Recorded sounds

Images

Archival and “live”

Flickering and pulsing

On screens

To walk here

JFK arrival early

In the morning

A train through Brooklyn

Emerge from subway

Midtown Manhattan

Welcome to New York

March 17, 2022

Saint Patrick’s Day Parade

Queuing to march

Up 5th Avenue

Above the Korean
Coffee diner
Endless
Irish American
Firefighters
In best dress
With Ancient Hibernians
On the café balcony
In line for the restroom
Because the brigades
Below assembling
On the street
Are ready to march
11 am
Have not had a pint
Redheaded lass says
Now, that's a sin
No excuse
Not to be drinking

Just a little bit
Of light rain
Falling on Manhattan
I watch the parade
From the corner
East 44th Street
@ 5th Avenue

Where the parade begins

Police, soldiers

Firefighters

Endless

Marching bands

My new friends

From upstairs

Representing all counties

Of Ireland

March by

Stop

About face

All look down 5th Avenue

Towards Lower Manhattan

Ground Zero

Moments of silence

For the 911 fallen

The parade continues

Reviewed

@ St. Patrick's Cathedral

Proceeds along uptown

"A nice walk"

One of my diner friends

Told me

All the way to

5th Avenue and East 79th Street

A living legacy

Time to check-in
At the Hotel St. James
Joey the desk clerk
Declares
“You are good people
And good things will happen!”

So back outside
On West 45th Street
A block further west
Open up
Times Square
Like a living video
Game grand
Computer simulations
Immigrants from Asia
Apparently in funny costumes
Endless Elmos
And Disney mice
Towering Transformers
Searching for airducts
More than meets the eye

By 10 pm the Irish
And once a year Irish
Are looking bedraggled
Or roaring drunk
Outside Connolly’s

And The Perfect Pint
Blond women
in tiny green dresses
Screaming drunk
Across the street
In the heavier rain
Old man in a soggy kilt
On his path home
Girlfriends with a grip
On their unstable boys
Guide them towards
The subway.

~ D. A. Wilson