

All This Time

Sting

I looked out across
The river today,
I saw a city in the fog and an old church tower
Where the seagulls play,
I saw the sad shire horses walking home
In the sodium light
I saw two priests on the ferry
October geese on a cold winter's night

And all this time,
The river flowed
Endlessly to the sea.

Two priests came round our house tonight
One young, one old, to offer prayers for the dying
To serve the final rite, One to learn, one to teach,
Which way the cold wind blows
Fussing and flapping in priestly black
Like a murder of crows

And all this time,
the river flowed
Endlessly to the sea

If I had my way I'd take a boat from the river
And I'd bury the old man,
I'd bury him at sea
Blessed are the poor, for they shall inherit the earth
Better to be poor than a fat man in the eye of the needle
And as these words were spoken I swear I hear
The old man laughing,
"What good is a used up world, and how could it be
Worth having"

And all this time the river flowed
Endlessly like a silent tear
And all this time the river flowed
Father, if Jesus exist,
Then how come he never lived here.

The teachers told us, the Romans built this place
They built a wall and a temple, an edge of the empire
Garrison town,
They lived and they died, they prayed to their gods
But the stone gods did not make a sound
And their empire crumbled, 'til all that was left
Were the stones the workmen found

And all this time
The river flowed
Endlessly to the sea
If I had my way
I'd take a boat from the river
Men go crazy in congregations