

Funding the Future

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Brian Bilston's [brilliant reworking](#) of 'If', published yesterday:



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Here's Kipling's poem 'If' rewritten to reflect the 'failures of leadership' of the current prime minister.

If (Boris Johnson version)

If you can keep your job when all around you
Lies ravaged from what it is you've done;
If intellect and common sense confound you
And if integrity you have but none;
If you can lie and not be tired by lying,
And pretend you act for the public good,
But then leave the people to their dying
And say you did, sadly, all you could:

If you can dream – of nothing more than power;
If you can think – but only of yourself;
If you believe this country's finest hour
Is when the chosen few can gain more wealth;
If you can flout the law with bluff and bluster
And not care whether you are believed,
Or deny with scorn every single blunder
And not care how many you may deceive:

If you can stir up hatred, fear and violence
To create division to suit your ends;
And answer cries for help with silence,
And then laugh about it with your friends:
If you can stretch this country to its limit
Or until it is you've had your fun,
Yours is this land and everything that's in it,
And—as you wished—you'll be PM, my son.

Brian Bilston

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