

The Long, Long, Long Apprenticeship.

King George began expecting a grandson.
A post war Prince of Wales
Plus all that such a royal birth entails.
Also the ration book, the milk allowance - his share
Of what the nation offered babies - be they royal or in care.
And that other issue that now became so clear.
That earlier royal diktat that had to disappear
So that Princess Elizabeth could be absolutely sure
That her son wouldn't be just Charlie - with blood so very pure.
Oh! Yes, there was that other name too.
British Royals are Windsors through and through.

When Grandad died and Mama became Queen.
Charles began on his multi - educational scene -
Schooling in England, Scotland, Australia too.
Playing trumpet, cello, Shakespeare and Review.
Piloting aircraft before joining his HMS crew.
So many contacts, friendships anew.

Later his interests in the Environment Nature and Plants,
And supporting young people through his Trust and its grants.
His passion, his knowledge, his relaxed ease and care
Are the qualities Lake District farmers know that he'll share.
Of course, we must add Eddie, a young black lad, council estate -
Who used the Trust - became its ambassador, Prince Charles' mate.
As well as moving in fashion, he became a Vogue editor, too.
Just the chap Time magazine needed to do a King Charles Review.
With his Art came Architecture, bringing Dumfries House salvation
And Windsor Castle a knowledgeable hand for its post-fire renovation.
In loco regina - our Welsh speaking, Prince of Wales,
Became a global traveller, following all sorts of trails.
Mentored by Mama, Elizabeth the Queen.

He met President Nixon - it was a pre Watergate scene.

Africa - Rhodesia - for Zimbabwe's birth.

Asia - Hong Kong separation- for what that's now worth!

At home - many visits and always a speech -

Plus his growing desire to bring multifaith ideas into popular reach,

Showed a sensitivity, an awareness of an everchanging world.

However, family divorces, Diana's sudden death, unfurled

Serious growing questions about our Queen and the monarchy's health.

Where is Queen Elizabeth? Why is she in no hurry?

Her Majesty's focus was on Princes William and Harry.

When later reviewing her son's private life,

She agreed Camilla would be a most supportive wife.

Bigger challenges came when Dad, then Mama died.

For gone were the two on whom he'd relied.

Now he's the Mentor - with a dad's love and care.

He works hard to be worthy and supports Prince William, his heir.

As he finally sits on that Coronation Chair.

His mind is on Welby, not that book "Spare."

And we will wait and we will watch and we'll listen

For that moment when Charles will finally hear

Crowning declarations then cheer after cheer after cheer.

God save the King. God save King Charles the Third.

How long has he waited for those few words to be said, to be heard.