

THE STONES OF GOD'S HOUSE TOWER

Billions of years ago an asteroid struck earth
Billions of years later the stones became
one of the stars of Southampton's God's House Tower
Look for a gap in the stones and you will see the stars!

The stones became the Tower's witness and speak to those who can hear

We lay in companionable silence
Till men came with picks
Transported, we are prisoned
with mortar, locked in place

I can't foresee the end, but I saw the beginning
when galleys sailed, waves lapped just beside
Horses trotted, bells pealed, ale reeked
how those bare hands fashioned gunpowder

A clamour and rush of air heralded Henry Five
peering through the gun port and extolling its transformation
He laid a gloved hand on my roughness, then was gone
scattering dust motes in his wake

The stones heard the cry of pain from gun packer John Ynglette when his arm was
broken
The cries of anguish when Harmon Smith was killed as the canon exploded
The stones saw the past and will see the future
Silent witness to all that has happened and yet to be in God's House Tower

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