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ASININE SESTINA HAS A HAIKU

Agronomist studies tillering grass,
belly-down on a board, while his donkey
Sestina, puzzles his work; unborn foal
kicks her kidney. She grunts. Restless fetlock
discomforts her buzzing-summer dreaming
of clover meadows and oat-chomping good.

Calloused thumb clicks a counter shaping good
data to select strong, productive grass.
Scientific mind wanders, dreaming
of picnicked love, reed-pannied donkey,
Adders Tongue and Asphodel blooming fetlock-
deep, golden pollen dusting a white foal.

Dancing, wheezing a first brave bray, the foal
suckles dam's udder, lamb-tail wagging good.
Mongrel, attracted by twitching fetlock
of jenny as she grinds Timothy Grass,
clamps tail between legs. Thundering donkey
hooves, panic dog to escape - gate dreaming.

Sun beats researcher's body, dozing, dreaming.
Jenny lies to comfort her unborn foal.
Long white eyelashes drooping as donkey
awaits her master, her time; blessed with good-
will to men, above all the leaves-of-grass-
counter asleep, shadowing swelled fetlock.

Sestina's fetus naps anew, fetlock-
calm, his forelock swimming, fresh world dreaming
of asses milk, of air-filled lungs, of grass
lush-green for food and prancing. Natal foal
wakes, thrusts front hooves out, flexes muscles good-
to-go, to a world of man and donkey.

Sestina stands, pushes, growls – a donkey
sound rarely heard. White muzzle and fetlock
protrude. She gasps, bears down again. Oh! Good,
sweet pain of delivery. Her dreaming
human stirs from his plank, surprised a foal,
named Haiku, wobbles legs splayed over grass.

A good donkey day
Grass rising to your fetlock
Dreaming of a foal.