

SUBJECT TO SUBLIMATION

A man's an enigma, Lord:
You filled him with many strengths.
You also gave him gentleness,
and You filled him with many fears.

He sees male animals fight
for food, for females, for territory.
He sees the fittest win and breed
their strength into their progeny.
And he says, "This is nature's way."

He looks at his own strong arm.
It can curve inward to hold,
comfort and protect
a wife, a child, a neighbor.
And he knows its latent force
can lash out,
spring-loaded like a lethal machine.

He looks in his dynamic brain and sees
the circuitry for producing marvels,
surpassing his bone and sinew skills.

He looks at all he is and doesn't know
the sum. Questions overwhelm him.
Is he shield or threat?
Sometimes the shield must fight
to be a shield. But whether turning
the cheek or raising the whip as Christ
once did, a man can't hide.
Or even turn his back
while he struggles to master himself.

The one pure truth is:
only faith can save him.