

Subject for 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 the choicest food,
females, 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, 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
its circuitry can produce marvels
surpassing his bone and sinew artistry.

He looks at all he is and doesn't know
the sum. 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 learn himself
and perfect a guarded goodness.

One pure truth is: only God can help him.