

## The Gadfly

The gadfly buzzes around the animal's face,  
With an irritating sound hoping to be heard.  
But the beast just sits, completely content.  
To chew its cud with the rest of the herd.

The town's people pull on the animal's tether.  
There's work to be done in the fields.  
But it is used to the constant tugging,  
And their efforts fail to make it yield.

It's ruminating on its mission statement.  
It's chewing on visions for its strategic plan.  
How can it keep its stakeholders promises?  
And still get the governor to understand.

Its hide is marked with the bites from other flies,  
That made the animal turn his head and look around.  
But they were only biting to feed on the animal's blood.  
And it keeps resting on the same piece of ground.

The gadfly lands on the polished data volumes.  
It detects decay under the skin.  
And it circles and rubs its wings together,  
To warn of the "agenda science" that lies within.

Its mandibles cut through the layers of rhetoric.  
Its compound eyes see beyond the animal's view.  
It asks the questions that no one wants to answer.  
Why not follow the policies like they're expected to do.

Its legs tickle the soft skin of the beast's belly.  
The fly knows where the vulnerable spots are.  
But it won't selfishly disclose this information.  
It knows retaliation will not get it very far.

This fly's bite can make the animal stand.  
Maybe see a better view from its upright position.  
Observe the world beyond the pasture fence,  
And the town's people that deserve more recognition.

This could be a symbiotic relationship.  
If the advice is not viewed as a reprimand.  
Only to support the theory of responsible regulation,  
That science and politics can walk hand-in-hand.

The gadfly wants to become a team player.  
It wants to gain the animal's respect.  
But all flies are associated with filth.  
And the fly's motives are always suspect.

The gadfly is at risk from the swishing tail,  
That can sweep away promotions and travel per diems.  
And memberships on policy committees.  
The fly could starve on the leftover crumbs.

The gadflies will come and these flies will go.  
They will continue to rise out of all the manure.  
Most will bite just to feed on the animal's blood,  
But this fly could help the animal endure.

by

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