

# POEM OF THE WEEK

A "GORDIAN KNOT"?

Examples are easy to find.  
Examples of a Gordian knot  
Examples of extremely difficult  
or complicated problems.

They are what we love to produce  
A problem wrapped in a riddle  
Tied in a bow with technical-ese  
Wrapped in sheets of self-recrimination

Which we blame on someone else  
(there's always a "someone else" -  
If not, we elect or select one.  
It doesn't matter 'who'.)

Where was I? Self-recrimination  
very important - add a touch of sin  
What else, considering the world we are in  
So much temptation. So much temptation.

The problem wrapped in a riddle  
(yes, yes; we've got that) lies there  
In the slime and decay, what we mortals  
term 'day to day'. Who wants to touch it?

It's a mess.

A mess is a mess is a mess  
That's what it is, all that it is  
A mess. It can be tidied up  
Rearranged, be decorated with flowers

Our subject, to reaffirm, is knots  
Gordian knots. The sort that mystifies  
Frustrated, sends us into a rage  
Amazing, regardless of age

Consider carefully. Is it a matter of degree?  
Could you describe the situation as "a difficulty,  
issue, trouble, worry, complication, or snag;  
A hitch, drawback, quandary or predicament?

A "Gordian knot" has all these elements  
Interconnected with, tied with each other

Where does one end and the other begin?  
You're in a daze, in this horrendous maze?

Do you want to know what to do?  
Alexander the Great chose action  
He drew his sword and cut through  
The tangle of knots. The very first

'Cutting of the Gordian knot'.

So, you need help.  
You've looked at this way and that  
You're confused, frustrated, and delayed  
(Schedules are most important)

Stand back, have a fag; I apologise  
No smoking is allowed. Let your mind wander  
To Paris, Rome, Istanbul or Palmerston North  
Think of the erring problem as a traveller

Yes, it's had its vaccine shots  
Where would it go, what would it do  
What wouldn't it do? Is it alone?  
One by one, run the scenarios through your mind

In the hope that somewhere you might find  
The weakest link is somewhere to attack  
Not with a sword. With an intelligent mind  
To cut through the wrapping down to

The problem inside. The Gordian Knot  
Is a metaphor for decisive action.  
No committee meetings, reports  
And endless discussion.

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