

This one has a bouncy cadence, not unlike a limerick; both lines of a single couplet are read in rapid succession; the first couplet ends with a pause, and the second couplet answers it.

Smitten Sonnet
copyright © December 16, 2019
Robert Alan Balaicius

[Isaiah's prophetic Messianic glimpse of needful sorrow]

As from a tree that had died and then fell
a tender twig had shot up in dry ground;
Who was so vile abus'd, flesh torn and bruise'd,
in Him no comeliness was to be found.

Despised and rejected, man of sorrows was He
acquainted with grief, afflicted and torn;
His countenance marr'd, horrendously scarr'd,
yet with poise by Him our sins were all borne.

In fear and in shame, our faces hid we;
He was despis'd and we sever'd our ties;
great was our guilt, we could not bear to see;
so we all lower'd and cover'd our eyes.

Firm our grief He bore—our pain and much more;
we judg'd Him stricken, by God put to death;
for nought that He had done, *His* flesh they tore;
for our transgression He breathed His last breath.

But for our peace, to death *He* was chastized;
by His lacerations so we were healed;
He carried our guilt and thus sympathized;
by His Sacrifice His Love was revealed.

Despite all trace of His Goodness and Grace,
our back we did turn, and His Mercy spurn
like ungrateful sheep we fled from His Face;
and God's Wrath on Him alone did it burn.

Though we were the sheep, who wayward had run,
as a lamb to the slaughter was *He* led;
as sheep shear'd are dumb, so He held His Tongue;
He was silent as He was pierc'd and bled.

Yet to Him so crush, didst the Father deign,
A Holy God's Wrath to propitiate;
for His Sacred Name, wore down His dear frame;
it pleas'd Him our sin to so expiate.

I often attempt to use a fuller meaning of the Greek or Hebrew, at times; the Hebrew #3126 *yo-neyk*, which is translated as “tender plant” actually means, “a sucker; hence a twig (of a tree felled and sprouting)”.

“²For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire Him. ³He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. ⁴Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His Mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His Mouth. ¹⁰Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put *Him* to grief: when thou shalt make His Soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His Hand.” (Isaiah 53)