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JOHN HOLLANDER

Adam's Task

"And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field . . ."—Gen. 2:20

unkind
 ming pure,
 nest life,
 the sight
 ll.
 nest pair
 born
 Eve.
 tain side
 re toil
 fficed
 e ease
 etite
 ey fell,
 boughs
 line
 ith flowers:
 he rind
 ing stream;
 miles
 e seems
 league,
 played
 d of all chase⁹
 paw
 s,¹ pards,
 y elephant
 ht, and wreathed
 sly
 ne
 ile
 e grass
 e gazing sat,
 e career
 nding scale
 ing rose.
 e lacking.
 acts of land.
 nxes. "pards": leopards.
 e the Gordian knot, a legendary
 knot, finally cut by Alexander the
 e Azores; i.e., westward.

310
 315
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 1667

Thou, paw-paw-paw; thou, glurd; thou, spotted
 Glurd; thou, whitestap, lurching through
 The high-grown brush; thou, pliant-footed,
 Implex; thou, awagabu.

Every burrower, each fier
 Came for the name he had to give:
 Gay, first work, ever to be prior,
 Not yet sunk to primitive.

Thou, verdle; thou, McFleery's pomma;
 Thou; thou; thou—three types of grawl;
 Thou, flisket; thou, kabasch; thou, comma-
 Eared mashawk; thou, all; thou, all.

Were, in a fire of becoming,
 Laboring to be burned away,
 Then work, half-measuring, half-humming,
 Would be as serious as play.

Thou, pambler; thou, rivarn; thou, greater
 Wherret, and thou, lesser one;
 Thou, sproal; thou, zant; thou, lily-eater.
 Naming's over. Day is done.

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 1971

LINDA PASTAN

A Symposium: Apples

Eve: Remember a season
 of apples, the orchard
 full of them, my apron
 full of them. One day
 we wandered from tree
 to tree, sharing a basket
 feeling the weight of apples
 increase between us.
 And how your muscles ripened
 with all that lifting.
 I felt them round and hard

5
 10