

roland you idiot

Michael F. Shands*

roland you idiot
you vain prideful idiot
you were not

summoned
like Beowulf
or wronged
like El Cid
or Siegfried

you wanted
to be a hero

and because
you would not
blow your horn
little boy blue
the sheep came back
to the meadow
too late

*Dr. Shands teaches English at Concordia College in Austin, Texas. A collection of his poems has been recently published.