

Septet Stanza

Naming Ceremony for the White Bison Calf

A very cool vibe, kind of a cross between Woodstock and the Nativity– Bill Varsell

On top of a hill-top in Goshen Connecticut
overlooking grazing bison on Mohawk Bison Farm
Lakota, Mohawk, Seneca and Cayuga tribal elders
joined hundreds of others to name the rare, pure, white calf
a symbol of hope and unity to Native Americans.
“Called” crowds lining the fence witnessed the private ceremony despite rain
which Native Americans considered a blessing, some suffering drought.

Under an arbor amid thunder and lightning, a good omen,
Marian and Chubb White Mouse from the Oglala Lakota tribe
came from South Dakota to lead the naming ceremony.
Marian White Mouse said the birth of the white bison
was a sign from a prophet who helped them endure famine and strife..
“We come with one prayer and one mind. This is truly a miracle.”
One prayer will keep all of us together. A hawk circled overhead.

Barbara Threecrow a Naticoke tribe elder from New York
sat holding a sacred Canupa of beaver skin containing a pipe.
The name came through the spirits. “I believe this is an awakening.
This is a way of telling people to remember the sacredness of all life.”
With songs and drum beats, in traditional garb, they celebrated.
Purified by sage smoke, some loaned umbrellas, no electronics
joyous people named the playful calf, “Yellow Medicine Dancing Boy.”

Septet Stanza:

1. Seven-line stanzas. Heptastich.
2. Poet decides meter or syllable count or free verse.
3. Poet decides rhyme or no rhyme.
4. Poet decides how many Septets to have in the poem.