

## 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

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