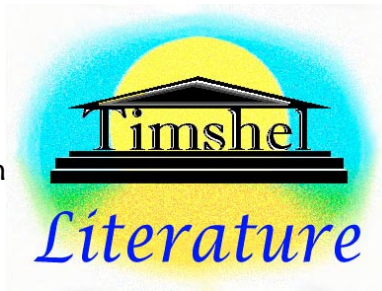


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Just Thinking, 02/10/03:

Meetings on the Road, V: Imbalance of Power

by Justin Katz

An elephant had trampled through a fence,
where manmade obstacles should never stand,
and roused a lagging poacher to defense,
who lacked sufficient weapons close at hand.

With trunk raised in a silent battle call,
the behemoth paused just inside the camp,
reckoning the tusks lain along a wall
and noting tools of death on which to stamp.

Arms whipping and shouts barked in cannonade,
the poacher thrust himself into its view.
The elephant shrank back in doubt and swayed,
and from its trunk, bewildered blasts it blew.

Decisions in the moments that ensued
determined which species would be subdued.