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Grasses

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Grasses

How solitary the hermaphroditic
flower and the maze of rootlets and panicles.
Crushed beneath each step, what lovesick
god could make the hollow stem cell by cell,

fibrous roots of grasses?
Out of what strategy of sand
came the profligate spore, the axis
of inflorescence, the hidden greens of Iceland?

What lusts mutinous to not desert
the desert? Thousand upon thousand:
species, tribes and genus. To revert
out of dirt the homely strand

growing. World below us: to know
the useful is not beautiful, and still the sower sows.

VALERIE WOHLFELD