

# EQUINE EQUIVOCATIONS

BROOKS H. ROHDE  
Bryan, Texas

Editor's Note: In the late 1970s and early 1980s Rohde wrote hundreds of logological poems about horses, mostly palindromes and charades. In the following, the first half of the palindrome presents one point of view and the second its complement. The final poem is an example of Jesuitical verse (equivoque), common a century or more ago.

## MORNING AND EVENING (Jun 1 1982) word-unit palindrome

Day for laboring,  
Finished resting for now,  
Time now for working,  
Done feeding, eager, fresh, not tired,  
Properly made work harness clean and up to task,  
Rough yet brushed, not dirty, feather clean,  
Not over worked on plowed lands,  
Bottom wide, broad across back,  
Head to eager look,  
Eyes bright, ears pricked up, driver behind.  
Not done working the rest, they till hard, going on.

Later on, going hard till they rest,  
The working done, not behind,  
Driver up, pricked ears, bright eyes look eager to head back  
Across broad wide bottom lands plowed on, worked over.  
Not clean, feather dirty, not brushed yet,  
Rough task to up and clean harness,  
Work made properly tired,  
Not fresh, eager feeding,  
Done working for now,  
Time now for resting,  
Finished laboring for day.

## CONDEMNATION AND REBUTTAL (Nov 3 1980) line-unit palindrome

So, willingly  
I would own one  
Hardly ever.  
Arrogant and aloof,  
Overly nervous,  
Saddlers are not

For everybody  
The type of horse,  
They are not  
Only for an expert!  
They usually behave  
Calmly and gently

The best of friends  
 Saddlers like to be caressed  
 Less than other breeds.  
 They really act up  
 For no good reason,  
 Explode and cavort,  
 And they will not  
 Settle down willingly  
 For a beginning rider.  
 And if asked to serve  
 Calmly and gently,  
 They usually behave  
 Only for an expert.  
 They are not  
 The type of horse  
 For everybody.

And if asked to serve  
 For a beginning rider  
 Settle down willingly.  
 And they will not  
 Explode and cavort  
 For no good reason.  
 They really act up  
Less than other breeds.  
 Saddlers like to be caressed,  
 The best of friends.  
 Saddlers are not  
 Overly nervous,  
 Arrogant and aloof  
 (...Hardly ever).  
 I would own one  
 So willingly!

TO SHAKIN' DUDE; TO ANY COMPETING HORSE (Aug 22 1981) charade

TO DUDE: Do what you can do! You, strutting in, tend to win. "To win, to..." What a mantra, Shakin' Dude. Now may you be first to place, last to lose, always.

TO COMPETITOR: Do what you can, do you, strutting, intend to win? To win? To what (aman!) trash kin, dud enow, may you be? First to place last, to lose always.

DAWN AND THE QUARTER HORSE (Apr 7 1981) Jesuitical verse  
 (Read down each column for one opinion, and across for another)

I much admire  
 The Arab breed  
 In many ways  
 This wondrous steed,  
 Can't be surpassed.  
 So proud and not  
 Ungentle, hot;  
 He makes the rest  
 Even the best  
 In pride, seem to me  
 Inferior  
 And he ought to be  
 Most numerous  
 And loved the most,  
 Free of all vice  
 From coast to coast

The Quarter Horse;  
 Is simply not  
 An equal to  
 The best we've got  
 His disposition's  
 Really too lazy.  
 There are but few,  
 Seem partly crazy;  
 Now keep in place!  
 He's full of it.  
 He'll never be  
 My favorite.  
 Of all the breeds,  
 That certain one  
 That I like least  
 Beneath the sun.