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# Admonitions

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**A**DMONITIONS  
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“They half-consciously submit to being mail property”  
—*Elizabeth Wanning Harries*

**N**ever sweep away white chalk circles  
in the back by the old apple tree  
when a new calendar must be hung.  
One could upset all the good luck  
the hens lay in their straw nests, spectacular eggs  
so deep a brown that could be  
mistaken for a lustrous yellow,  
an almost hair spun-gold.

It is unbecoming to engage in acts  
of bestiality. How carnal  
those rancorous urges that wish to extricate  
the heart from its red coating, its coffin.  
The crimson sweaters, cardigans, and hoodies  
so popular among young maidens  
are lascivious and should never be worn  
as it invites such animal impulses  
to reside in the delicate body.

A vigilant study of fashion must be maintained.  
The aesthetic of gowns governs more than comfort  
for a charming man will notice an enchanting  
lady's face and body, one that casts a spell  
upon him, before that lady's mouth can even slip a word  
in his wine to seduce him. Care should, however, be taken  
when wearing tightly cinched laces,  
hair combs, or the purest gold stilettos,  
especially ones that rise above two inches  
for the toes and heel must retain perfect form.

Particular attention must be taken with shoes  
as a maiden cannot go about climbing bean stalks,  
scaling walls of bramble and briar,

traipsing through mud, snow, and pitch,  
or securing her own welfare.  
This is best left to strapping husbands.  
Only the deceitful and vile women  
wear cast-iron shoes, as is the faux-pas.

Once married, a maiden must be mindfully  
obedient and thoughtful of her spouse.  
She must not disturb him when he watches  
the evening news, but spend her time tending  
to the house chores. In the morning,  
it is best to let the husband decide when  
to rise, perhaps by kissing his wife awake.

A graceful woman must be well-trained  
in rhythmic steps and well-armed  
with sturdy shoes if she is to keep up  
the meter of a gentleman's dance  
and her shoes are to hold together  
or else fall to pieces, lest the maiden,  
from embarrassment and shame,  
should fall to pieces  
herself.

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