

Meeting A Praying Mantis

by Ed Higgins

A Praying Mantis

clover to bright emerald green
landed on my sleeve
and lingered as I worked
in my hay field.

While I'm not much of
a praying person,
my concern for a friend
suffering from cancer
led me to ask the mantis
to consider praying for her.

The creature
visibly
pulled its legs
into praying
position
(which I realize
actually indicates
readiness for prey
although my sleeve
held nothing but this creature
and my bemused delight).

So I asked the mantis
on behalf of my non-believer self,
projecting my real hope for
my friend
beating off the cancer
preying on her.

The mantis visit ended
abruptly thereafter. The creature
springing back into the field's stubble,

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disappearing into the clover and grass.

In all my farming years,
never has a Praying Mantis
visited me in this manner.
While our theologies
may not have converged,
I felt grateful at
this strange alignment
of my request
and the mantis'
prayer-folding response.

