

## Branded

by jude *Monday, Mar 19 2018, 11:13pm*

international / poetry / post

the herd is guided by  
trained blue dogs and green riders  
but owners never get their hands dirty

millions of dumb animals are easily led  
to their slaughter but only after they are exploited  
as beasts of burden until unable to produce  
for their owners any longer

the young are rounded up daily and branded  
with a mysterious brand that owners  
have designed, invisible to the naked eye  
but clear and burning to trained eyes

the brand circles the brows of the dumb beasts  
and its power is renewed daily tho the beasts remain unaware;  
they are owned and their every move is monitored  
and guided tho they imagine they choose of their own volition,  
such is the ease with which an invisible brand  
manages the many

it's slaughter time today

various beasts are prepared for their fate and herded to distant  
lands where they are killed for the benefit of the few

various breeds join in the game of death until they  
assure each others' mutual destruction,  
the owners delight in this game of death --  
herd beasts have always been expendable

occasionally a branded beast becomes aware  
of the band/brand around its brow and charges,  
which alerts the blue dogs  
and riders,

owners have specified that these beasts be neutralised immediately  
one way or the other;  
these beasts now aware they are enslaved and exploited  
are dangerous to owners as they could disrupt entire herds,  
which occurred in days past

one such aware beast whispered to the enslaved herd and promised  
freedom in a land of plenty;  
he led the others to their promised land  
where the herd became enslaved again  
with a newly arranged brand/brand around their brows

and so the cycle repeats itself for the want of one freed beast  
to pause and read the invisible name on the band --

its symbols are arranged thus:

'B-E-L-I-E-F'

it is this band/brand that Binds and enslaves

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Jungle Drum Prose/Poetry. <http://jungledrum.lingama.net/news/story-3234.html>