Make me plow blade

by Abigail Carroll in the December 21, 2016 issue

Make me plow blade, implement for the deep earth, forge me blue with heat, Lord of flame, blow strong the bellows, let the bellows sing, baptize me in song, let ring

anvil, hammer, iron, tong, away the slag, away the dull, draw me sharp as the chine of a scythe, sharp as sun glint, sharp as steel, Lord of moldboard, coulter, land-

side, heel, temper me raw in water and salt, mark me with ash, bathe me in flux, teach me syntax of edge and point, syntax of furrow, syntax of stone, Lord of harvest, fit me

to rend, fit my tongue to till, oh be not done till the yoke holds fast, the share proves keen, oh be not done till the ground gives way, oh Shaper of earth, of blade, of song