

## In Praise of Donkeys

by [Angela Alaimo O'Donnell](#) in the [November 2023](#) issue

What does a donkey know of consciousness?

The sweet taste of carrots, the soft caress  
of a child who loves him, if he is blessed  
to be owned by those who know his worth.

One of the innocent creatures of earth  
who eats no meat, who sheds no blood,  
he walks in peace, through field and mud.  
Though burdened by human wish and want,  
he does not begrudge it. He is a fount  
of patience, pilgrim who knows the way  
without a map. He does not stray  
from the righteous path. Night and day  
he is the self he's meant to be,  
dear body he inhabits but can't see.