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For Whom Nobel Tolls

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FOR WHOM NOBEL TOLLS

By

William Dunham

Hanover College and The Ohio State University

It is well-known that Nobel Prizes
Come in many shapes and sizes.
But one is missing from the list -
The Nobel Math Prize does not exist.

There is a widely-held suspicion
That might account for this omission:
Perhaps it's jealousy that's to blame
For mathematicians' absence from the Nobel game.

For Alfred Nobel had become aware
Of his wife's impassioned love affair
With a mathematician, who held her tight
And thought that she was DYNAMITE.

Then Nobel, reacting as expected,
Vowed, "Mathematicians shall be neglected!
And if it's Sweden they want to see,
Let them take a tour and pay the fee!"

O, the lack of a Math Prize is indeed a curse,
Yet I have to admit it could have been worse -
What if Madame Nobel's infamous tryst
Had been instead with a pacifist ?