

Burns Stanza

Contemplating Extra-Terrestrials

Trillions of planets around.
Billions in Milky Way are found.
Sentient life has to abound
 in universe.
Billions of galaxies resound
 in multiverse.

Exo-planets, with living zone
may not be like a human clone
But we can't be just us alone—
 celestial.
Sentience is most surely prone—
 terrestrial.

They will have their own cosmic rules,
own symmetry, survival tools.
We'll find out if kind or cruel
 when we greet them.
Hope they are not more stardust fools
 when we meet them.

Quirky, quarky compositions
with their doubtful dispositions
may have favored star positions—
 maybe star-stuff?
Fill out hopeful requisitions—
 starry enough?

Burns Stanza: Also called Habbie stanza or Scottish stanza.
Six-line stanza. a-a-a-b-a-b Metrical Count: 4-4-4-2-4-2 feet or accents,
Converted to syllable counts: 8-8-8-4-8-4. Shorter lines give a quickening at end.