

# Forces

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## Pasture Ride

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## Voyagers

Susan R. Mardele

My life has been about dropping the mask,  
being more authentically myself,  
Coming out from behind the curtain ...  
like Oz.

And now, a mask is required.  
COVID so dictates.

That all-important smile hidden  
behind paper or cheery fabrics.

Often times it seems people think eye contact  
can spread the virus.

In the grocery store, on the walking trail,  
the street.

But a smile shows beyond the mouth  
to the eyes, the tone of voice.

Eye contact, a kind word, a nod  
that we're all in this together,

Is a way to come out from behind the mask ...  
even with a mask on.

And be human.

Another voyager along with the rest ...

Just trying to navigate these uncertain waters.



Pasture Ride • Debra St. John