A Kolsky Haiku

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I had the good fortune to spend several years working with KT as a postdoctoral fellow. In those years I came to appreciate many aspects of KT's personality and his broad interests. I can best describe KT as an extremely bright, thoughtful, and compassionate person who cares deeply about his students, post-docs, colleagues, and family. KT is a bit of a Renaissance man, with deep personal interest in topics such as astronomy and poetry. KT tries to instill the importance of a broad education in all those who surround him and has gone as far as starting every group meeting by reading a poem, and requiring all of his PhD students to develop a creative interpretation of their PhD. During my time in his group, I witnessed interpretations such as a painting of crack-tip stress fields, Claymation describing the deformation gradient, sculptures of dislocations, and Bollywood-inspired dance routines. Since I completed my PhD elsewhere, I never developed a creative interpretation

of it. However, I have come to appreciate the importance of a broad view. Poetry is not my “thing”, but I thought that a poem would be a fitting tribute in honor of KT's 60th birthday. So as a small token of my appreciation to KT for his years of support, mentorship, and friendship—from nearby the bottom of my heart—I present a “Kolsky Haiku”.

Swift slender bars move.
Quickly assessing response.
What is your strength?

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