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Unsolved Haiku

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Unsolved Haiku¹

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An algorithm:

Three times an odd then add one
then half an even.

Example: three, ten,
five, sixteen, eight, four, two, one.
Now start with seven.

Thirteen leads to five
for which the problem is solved.
So try another.

For all integers
do they arrive back at one
—an unsolved problem.

Equivalently
does the algorithm yield
a smaller number.

¹ This poem describes the still unsolved 1937 conjecture of Lloyd Collatz: Do repeated applications of the algorithm described yield the number 1? See <https://www.quantamagazine.org/mathematician-proves-huge-result-on-dangerous-problem-20191211/> for more.