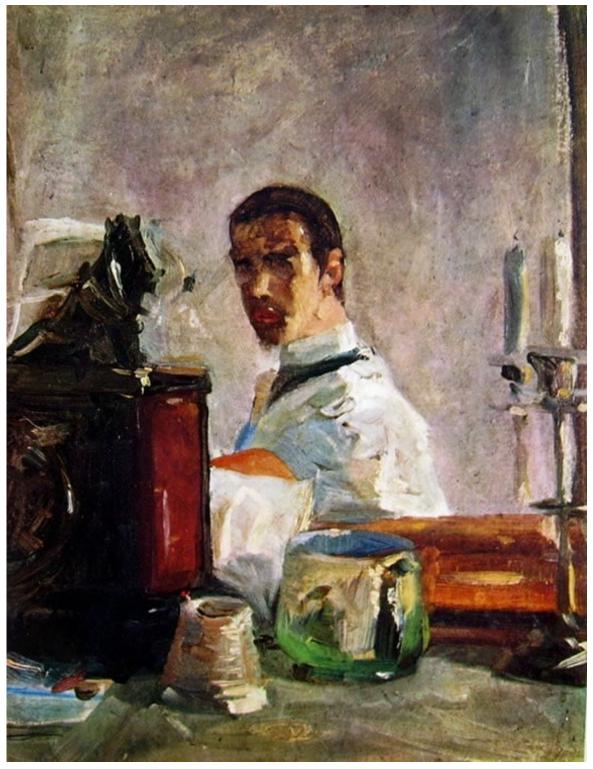
## **Psalm**

by <u>Jeffrey Burghauser</u> (August 2025)



Self-Portrait in Front of a Mirror (Henri De Toulouse-Lautrec, 1880)

- To God, a naïve, sŭpplĭcátŏrÿ prayer.
  Relentlessly Vehement Kisser
- Of Those who are Strangers to Kisses: declare

  That nothing of silver, of Swiss her
  Mĭtáge semidarkness, of North or of South,

  Shall forfeit my right to Your mouth.
- O Bed of the Trustful: invite me to bed
  While there is still time for some slumber—
  While there is still time to commune with the dead
  Appearing in topaz & umber.

O Dusty Proscenium's Floodlights: define The *mise-en-scène*'s évěry line.

- O Nonchalant Cóntrăcting Party to Whom,
  Alone, the Unbreakable Contract
  Is Legible: softly preserve me from doom
  The dignified, elderly don tracked
  From Genocide's sodden, voluminous ditch
  To some neurological twitch
- Or spell of abstraction experienced by
  A half-shaven man at his mirror.

  Preserve me from selling my soul for a sigh.
  The Father of Lies, cavalier ĭrRĭdéntist, considers with devious art
  My mind, having taken my heart.
- To God, a naïve, sŭpplĭcátŏrÿ verse.

  Relentlessly Generous Tender

  Of Those who are Strangers to Tenderness: nurse
  With lullaby-whispers & slender,

  Experienced fingers ideal as a ghost,
  What, in me, might need it the most.

## **Table of Contents**

Jeffrey Burghauser is a teacher in Columbus, Ohio. He was educated at SUNY-Buffalo and the University of Leeds. He currently studies the five-string banjo with a focus on pre-WWII picking styles. A former artist-in-residence at the Arad Arts Project (Israel), his poems have appeared (or are forthcoming) in Appalachian Journal, Fearsome Critters, Iceview, Lehrhaus, and New English Review. Jeffrey's booklength collections are available on Amazon, and his website is <a href="https://www.jeffreyburghauser.com">www.jeffreyburghauser.com</a>.

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