The Poor Sensualist Sings to The Rich Puritan

by <u>Jeffrey Burghauser</u> (April 2023)



Young Couple from Rusadla, Alphonse Mucha, 1920

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Without the attention of solemnly young, Near-virginal lovers whose loving is old (A ladder to Grace only lacking a rung), What value abides in barbarian gold?

Without the cerulean-cameo-cool Caress of a nymph in whose silence is scrolled The edicts that Daylight & Death overrule, What value abides in barbarian gold?

Without the unfailing ability to Approach with a finger the things you behold In sunset savannas advancing to you, What value abides in barbarian gold?

Love Poem

For reasons Beyond my power, and Beyond your Responsibility,

It's you who Must bear the burden of My regard. But please don't think that my Regard costs

Me nothing. Were I a Capable Navigator of such Dilemmas, I wouldn't be in one. Was it this That Petrarch wrote about?

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Jeffrey Burghauser is a teacher in Columbus, OH. 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 <u>www.jeffreyburghauser.com</u>.

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