

# The Poor Sensualist Sings to The Rich Puritan

by [Jeffrey Burghauer](#) (April 2023)



*Young Couple from Rusadla, Alphonse Mucha, 1920*

## **The Poor Sensualist Sings to The Rich Puritan**

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 book-length collections are available on [Amazon](#), and his website is [www.jeffreyburghauser.com](http://www.jeffreyburghauser.com).

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