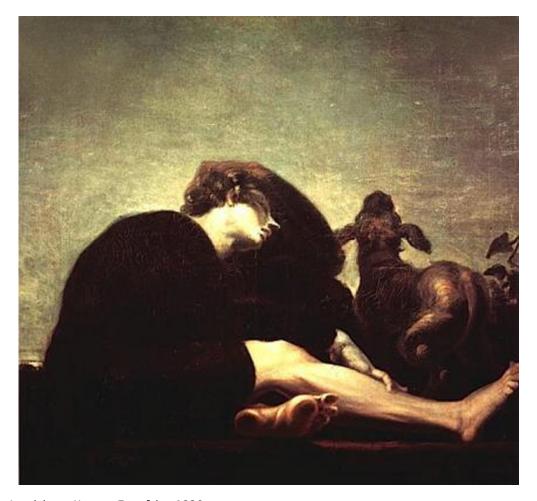
## **Two Poems**

by <u>Jeffrey Burghauser</u> (September 2018)



Lycidas, Henry Fuseli, 1820

## [1] Suburban Monody

I never thought: "When I get older,

I'll own a boulder."

But there's one in my backyard.

I never thought that someday I'd boast

Owning a lamppost.

By the boulder it stands guard.

A tire whose pressure seems exact,

Might, in point of fact,

Be preparing to explode.

I, though not at all presumptionless,

Never reckoned this

Information I was owed.

A surprise: They still abhor the Jew.

Furthermore, who knew

Pain could colonize . . . a knee?

It appeared supremely understood

That I never would

Have kids intentionally.

But my chest became an icy sluice,

Dearest Lycidas,

When, receiving no reply,

I forced through your bedroom's heavy lock,

And succumbed to shock

At the fact that people die.



Le Voile, William-Adolphe Bourguereau, 1898

[2] Eclogue

after William-Adolphe Bourguereau

The heat is

Broken like a droplet's skin. Fasten The fair, fresh-uncoiléd strings, each Attempting to determine what it Means to abide beneath unheard-of Tensions, their untried, infinitely Discoverable authority On wayside sympathetic strings, On mahogany, maple, spruce, brass, Bone & ebony-On human skin, And on heaven's common air. Beware: Dermal vapors rising through the thin, Suburbanly-laundered linen in-To an olfáctosphere busy with Breeze-shaken buds, botryoidal moss, Thickened vegetationary floss, Wet granite, damp tobacco, wine, and All those soft, kindred occasions of New heat, each singularly a-pulse, Trailing its Nazareth lace of fruit Shampoo & talcumey showerstuff.

In Arcadia, one's vices grow
Selfless, as they were a world ago.

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Jeffrey Burghauser is an English teacher in Columbus, Ohio. He was educated at SUNY-Buffalo, the University of Leeds, and 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 previously appeared (or are forthcoming) in *Appalachian Journal*, *Lehrhaus*, *New English Review*, and *Iceview* (Iceland).

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