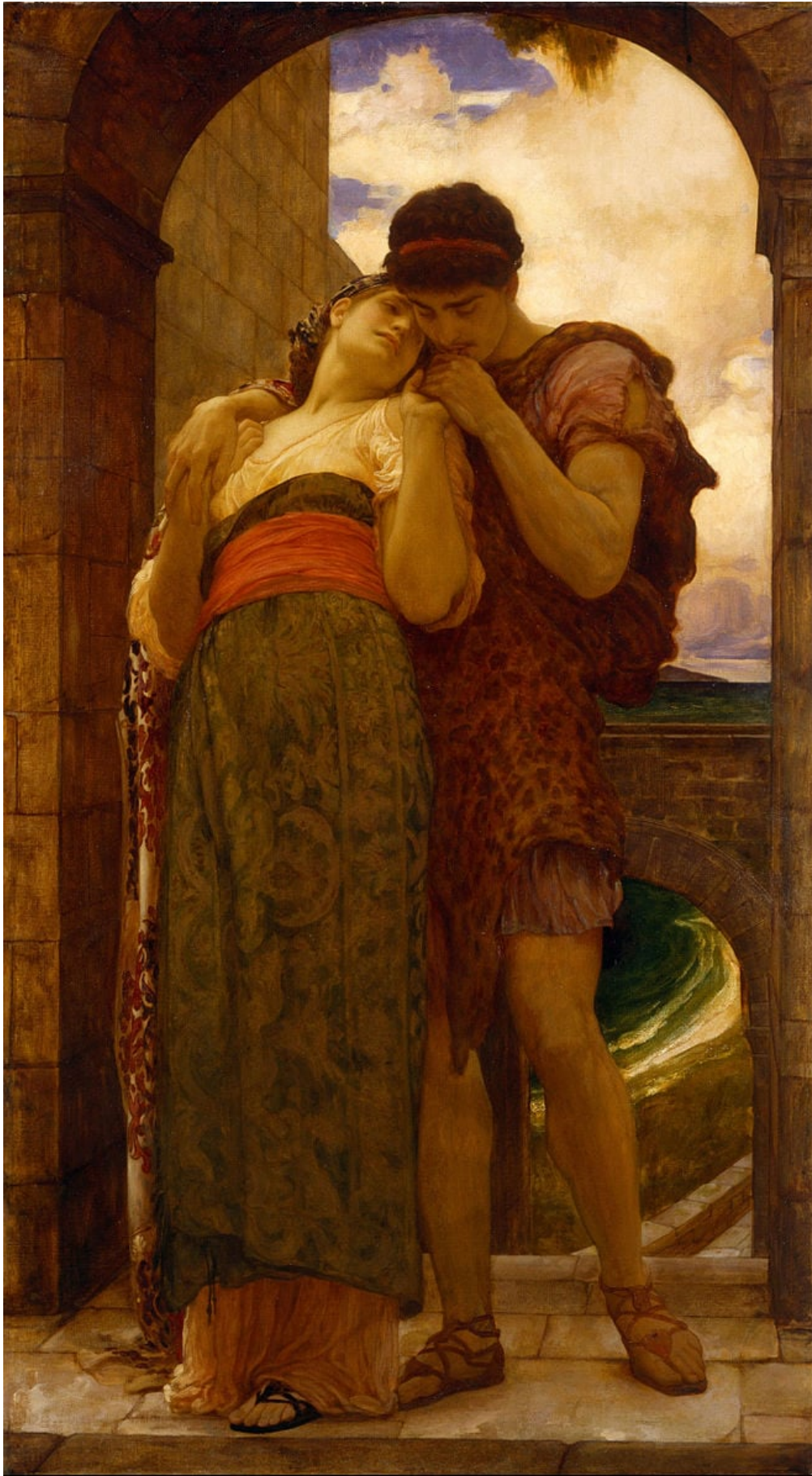


# On Married Love

by [Jeffrey Burghauer](#) (June 2019)



*Wedded*, Frederic Leighton, 1882

*for M.C.L.*

Standing-swaying burnt & dazed  
On the Gulf of Aqaba's  
Swelter-fastened southern flange,  
God & bodily distress  
Twisted all my mind until  
I was someone seeing Saint  
Valentine's Day solemnized  
At the gold Sheldonian.  
I remember ivory  
Men in tailored formalwear  
Passing through those burnished doors  
Nameless with their weightless dates—  
Slender & exquisitely  
Nameless nymphen nonchalant,  
Dripping silk from their physiques.  
Each admitted in her hand  
A specific, long-stemmed rose.

\*

*Fancy easily supplies*

*Pseudo-substance of this sort.*

*No one can anatomize,*

*Blush-with-pigment, and report*

*Real Arcadia as well*

*As they can a throbbing Hell.*

*Thank you for the quiet We—*

*The unmappably exact,*

*Heaven-sent & easefully*

*Adjective-repellent fact*

*That instantiates no less*

*Than a human happiness.*

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Jeffrey Burghauer 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 collection, [\*Real Poems\*](#), is available on Amazon and his website is [www.jeffreyburghauser.com](http://www.jeffreyburghauser.com).

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