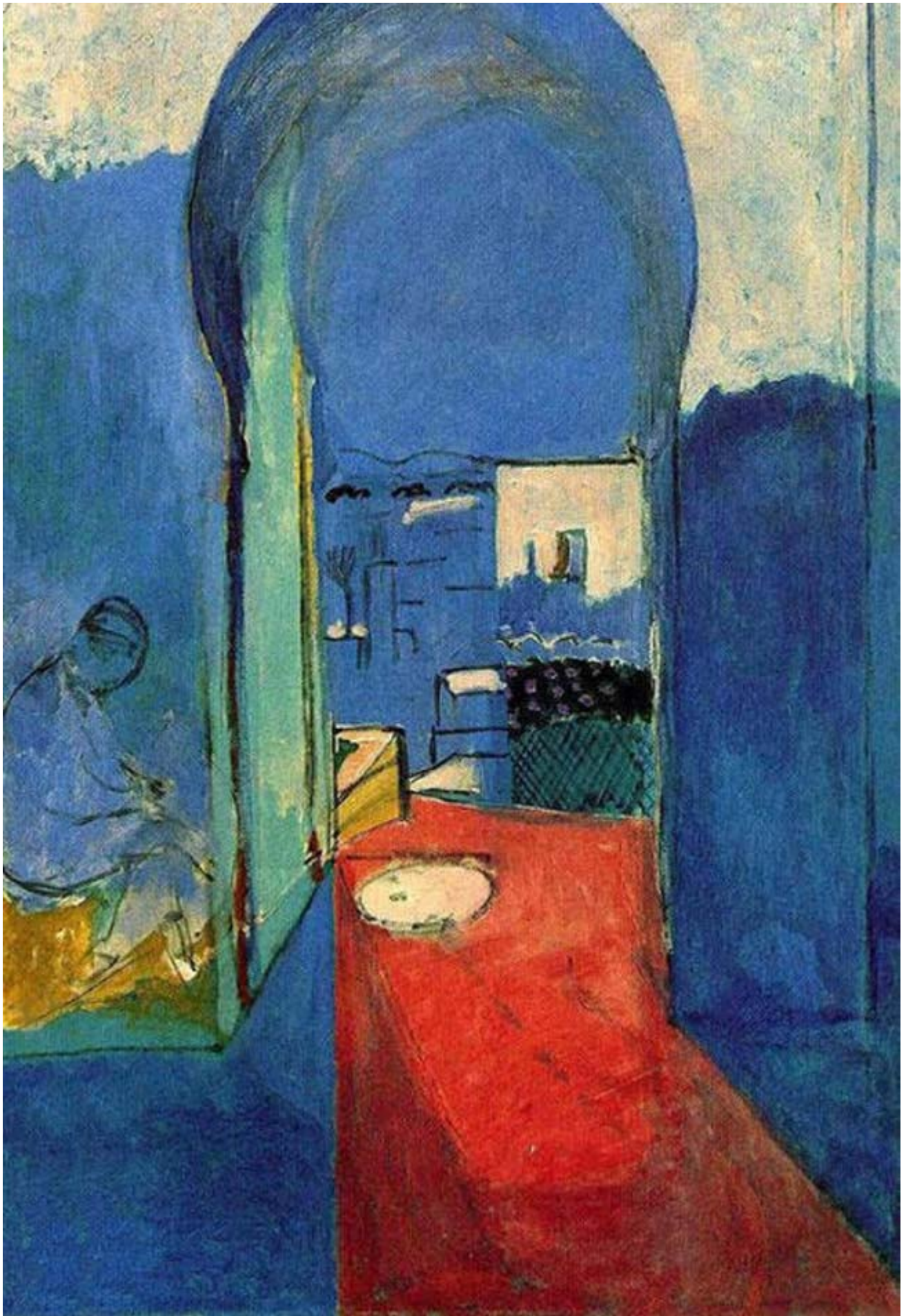


# One Last Step

by [Romain P. A. Delpeuch](#) (September 2023)



*Casbah Gate*, Henri Matisse, 1912

door, the way  
to the pure land, to the  
kingdom of quenched desires.  
Enigma for the seekers,  
genii fallen, risen.

Skin all reality.  
Stop and consider voids,  
plethora dancing, all  
clad in their outward fullness.  
See through their movements, hectic  
appeal to your attention.  
Sleep and wake, sleep and wake...  
Cycle of misremembrance.

You don't seem even puzzled,  
prolific saint. I envy you.  
Oh, never mind. Forget it.

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Romain P. A. Delpuch is the author of [Hypnagogia](#) ([Terror House Press](#), 2023). His poetry and short fiction appear in *New English Review*, [Terror House Magazine](#), [Apocalypse Confidential](#), [Ekstasis](#), [D.F.L. Lit](#), *JOURN-E* (vol. 1, [no. 2](#)), [Atop The Cliffs](#) and [The Decadent Review](#).

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