

# The Poor in Spirit AND The Song of the Angry Nihilist



Gleaners by Jean-François Millet

by [Jeffrey Burghauer](#) (January 2022)

[1] The Poor in Spirit

*Hoshi'ah-nah!* [1] They are most terribly poor  
Who find their existence an instrument like  
The Serbian gusle, the sruti box, or  
Tanpura, on which Virtuosity (strike  
Or pluck howsoever you will) will detect,

Alas, preconditions inimical to  
All possible, even the most indirect,  
Expression. There's only so much She can do.

*Hoshi'ah-nah!* They are most terribly poor  
Who find the contusive (as if a claw's clutch  
Had just been surrendered) & dismally sore  
Locale at their core more substantial than such  
Numeric imbalances as interpose  
Between the fat, deckle-edged, accolade-brined  
Translations of Dante's *Inferno*, and those  
Prepared of the two other volumes, combined.

Salvation is like some illustrious, plea-  
Green, treaty-protected Apulian lime  
Produced by a country that's harrowingly,  
Profoundly specific, and, at the same time,  
Quite radically distant. However, this odd  
Land only exists in adorable lore.  
To build it requires prosperity. God  
(*Hoshi'ah-nah!*) bless the most terribly poor.

## [2] The Song of the Angry Nihilist

Listen. When I was a kid  
Back where my grief is begot,  
I was familiar (not  
Friendly) with this little *yid*

Fully possessed of the pride  
Joyful credulity does.  
Since he was earless, there was  
Nowhere for secrets to hide.

This adolescent enjoyed  
Dancing as toddlers enjoy  
Barbequed drumsticks. The boy  
Pounded the stuff of the Void.

Every cryptically sick  
Twist was contingent & chanced,  
Artlessly solemn. He danced  
Like a retarded *muzhik*.

Sadly, I haven't a flake  
Of the ethereal sense  
Shown by this antic-intense,  
Twitching dysgenic mistake.

There is no Secret. Concussed  
Past the discretion of Grace,  
Even the Firmament's face  
Twists with a drunken disgust.

Under it, fences are en-  
Feebled by larva-cool rot,  
Slack as the notion I'm not  
Better than most other men.

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[\[1\]](#) Hebrew. "Save, I pray!", Anglicized as "hosanna."

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

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