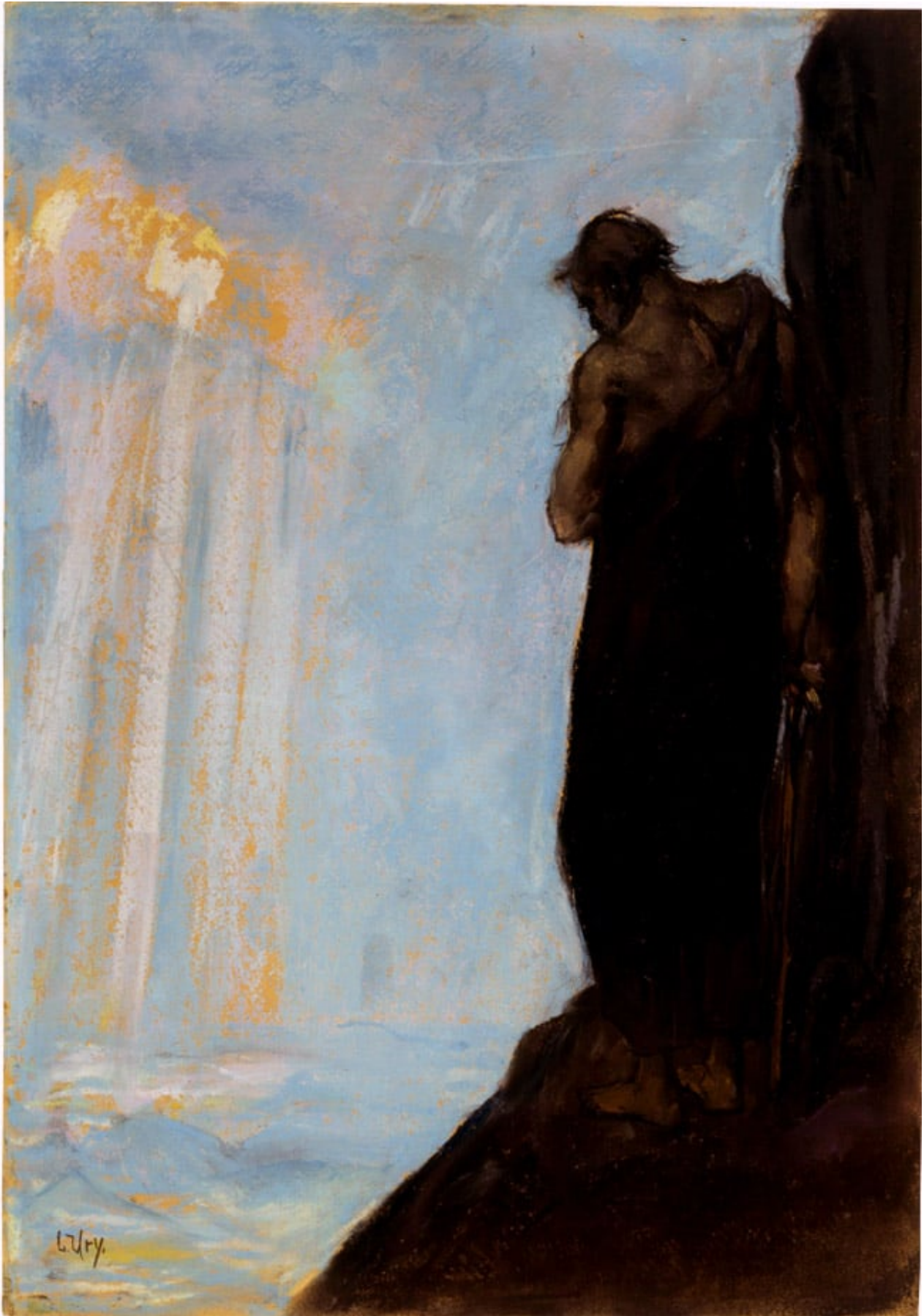


# You Shall Not Forget

by [Jeffrey Burghauer](#) (February 2024)



Moses On Mount Nebo Looking at the Promised Land, Lesser Ury, 1927

*Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget. –Deuteronomy 25:17-19*

Our Father, Moses, bravely stood  
Above the hissing fight  
His scion brought with hardihood  
To the Amalekite.

He stood, a solemn figurehead,  
Beholding from that height  
The Hebrew battling the red,  
Foredoomed Amalekite.

By means of hoisted hands, the man  
Was able to recite  
The will of Heaven, stronger than  
A mere Amalekite.

Occasionally, there's a debt  
No mortal can requite.  
The Scripture says: "Do not forget  
The foul Amalekite."

A skull can be History's hearse;  
Interminable spite  
Is History's mnemonic. Curse  
The dark Amalekite.

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Jeffrey Burghauser is a teacher in Columbus, Ohio. 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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