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## On Drawing Marcus Aurelius

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## ON DRAWING MARCUS AURELIUS

Take hold  
of the horse, its neck  
and bulging eye.  
Then learn the man  
by head. Be him,  
be unsurprised.

Take hold  
of the thing described.  
His cockleshell  
beard, his size  
astride that burly  
beast not even  
slightly compromised.

Forget verisimilitude.  
Be alloyed,  
streaked with green  
and gold. Solid as  
an earth-packed  
age. Solemn  
as bronze.