

# Sonnet Scroll

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## **Portrait of an Old Man, by Memling By David Landon**

*European Galleries, New York's Metropolitan Museum*

I come here often, stand here wondering  
just what this old man knows, his face  
revealed against a night of background dark,  
and brought to presence in an amber glow,  
the source—his secret knowledge?—mysterious,  
hands also lit, clasped softly in repose.

Or maybe he's forgotten what he knew,  
his knowledge music now, enlightenment,  
gently unraveling his neural snarls  
and loosening the corners of his lips.  
Although the paint is thickly cracked, he's there,  
about to smile; his music brings him through.

A gift! If we wait quietly with him,  
we may begin to hear the music too.