

## Rembrandt

Jane Blanchard

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### Rembrandt

Why did a man, unhandsome, often turn  
to painting from a mirror? Was he vain,  
or not, to focus on someone so plain?  
What made an eager spender choose to spurn  
a model's fee? Did earnest students learn  
more easily to copy the mundane?  
Were good commissions hard enough to gain  
that money was a matter of concern?

Could he have known that these original  
self-portraits would be counted treasures all  
in due time? What a record of resilience—  
such talent, soon of age, then elderly—  
each face illuminated with a brilliance  
against the shadows of obscurity.

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