

BEING MOST ONESELF

Authenticity
forever shines
like a cracked jewel,

flickering through
its staggering facets.

The sagging tree,
the one-eyed squirrel,
the tattered city,
the screaming beggar—
none requires apology.

And yet,
nothing's more instinctive
than coating oneself
with tar and feathers.

Perhaps that's why
Thelonious said
a genius is the one
most like himself.

And loved most
the player who knew
how to break a rule.