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The Beggar

By FRANCES ELLIOTT

All day the beggar on a sun-drenched stone
Barter his jests for paltriness of coins;
At dusk he winds a sash about his loins
And mounts his poppied throne of dreams, alone.
He jousts with tigers under magic skies,
And knows the joy that fantasy purloins,
A glinting mask of star-dust on his eyes.