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Unfinished

When Fall's canopy casts its shade
Onto the cortical canvas of memory,
There is a becoming awareness
That age, with its lines and pinched features,
No longer mirrors one's once vibrant image.
So here the daydreaming patron is tempted
To dodge time's hold on the person,
And pose as Spring's once youthful version.

Yet profitably the daydreamer might work life wiser
Than lingering over Spring's past, once lightly regarded.
Better, let him accent features born of earned merit
And bear the wear of tempered youth's spirits.
Urge him, rather, to paint from Fall's pallet,
A portrait of virtues like wisdom, goodwill, and fine deeds
In the smile of the eyes radiating kindly aged creases.

Thus, are Fall's features earned and conserved.
But what of Spring's past?
Can the seasons complete
Through ripe Autumn's force
Without the strength of youth's flushing pulse?

Better still—pose life's portrait unfinished.
Capture the age with its tumbling complexion,
Its kaleidoscope revolving—changing
Once again, again human, *ad infinitum*.

—Samuel Durso, MD, MBA

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