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## **Somebody Wants To Steal My Name**

Henri Michaux

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**Henri Michaux**

**SOMEBODY WANTS TO STEAL MY NAME**

While I was shaving this morning, stretching my lips and jaw to present my razor with a splendidly tensile surface, what do you suppose I saw? Three gold teeth! I, who have never gone to a dentist.

Oh, my! Oh, my!

And why?

Why? To make me doubt myself, and then, when I'm vulnerable, to rob me of my favorite name: Barnaby. Somebody's tugging at my side right now, pulling hard, trying to yank it out.

But I, too, am ready, and it is I who will prevail. "Barnaby," I say. "Barnaby." And when I do, all their labors are doomed to failure.

Translated from the French  
by **David Lehman**