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## In a Crowd / In a Courtyard

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Mark A. Folsie

In a crowd, in a courtyard  
backstopped by jasmine,  
blessed be the mixed scents  
of flower & the queenly perfumes  
southern women favor.

I realize I can no longer name  
the most popular scents;  
too long off the market,  
too long in the deep north,  
too long in lockdown.

I must reacquaint my senses,  
as I did my skin going from  
April snow to August thunder,  
and push my bashful self  
to ask a woman, "That's

a lovely scent. What  
is it called?" and be  
thought an old Hank  
when I have no ill  
or other intention than

to recover entire  
the self that left  
New Orleans, New Year's  
Eve in '86 & became,  
for a long time, someone else.