

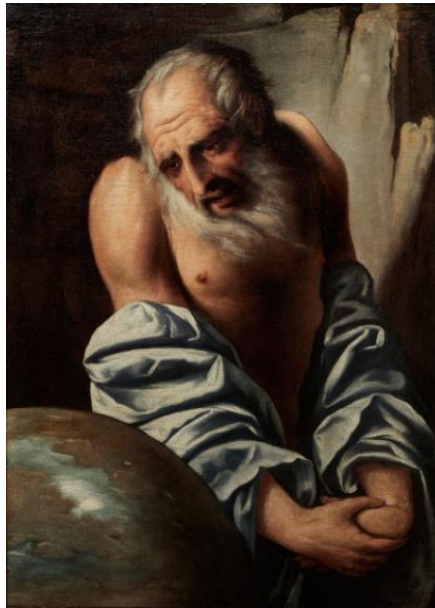
# CHARLES RATTON & GUY LADRIERE

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## PIETRO della VECCHIA

(Vicenza 1603- Venice 1678)

### HERACLITE

Oil on canvas (lined)

Height : 97,5 cm

Length : 70 cm

Pietro della Vecchia is one of the major painters of seventeenth century Venice, his vast array of works is made of religious, historical, *genre* subjects, or grotesque heads. His first documented painting is dated 1620, and shows his debt to Carlo Saraceni and Jean Leclerc, who brought in Venice the roman *chiaroscuro* inherited from Caravaggio. He enters around 1625 the workshop of Padovanino (1588-1648), who continues the Renaissance tradition, mainly Titian's manner; this

influence will be important for his career, and will lead to a production of forgeries of Giorgione and Titian which he dealt with his step-father, the painter Nicolas Régnier (1591-1667). Under the Genoese-born Bernardo Strozzi (1581-1644), settled in Venice, his color-scheme brightens. From 1640 to 1674, he produces the cartoons for the mosaics for the San Marco basilica, and then paints various series of religious paintings for Venice, Treviso, or other churches from the Veneto.

Heraclite, antique philosopher, of pessimistic and melancholic mood, is frequently paired with Democrite, his opposite; this one was painted by della Vecchia in a painting of dimensions so close to ours (96, 5 x 73 cm, private collection in Paris, n° 123 of the artist's *catalogue raisonné* published by Bernard Aikema ; *Pietro della Vecchia and the heritage of the Renaissance in Venice*, Florence, 1990), that we are tempted to consider it is the companion of our painting.