

## THE BEAST SHOP

**Colum, Padraic, 1881-1972**

Two little creatures  
With faces the size of  
A pair of pennies  
are clasping each other--  
"Ah, do not leave me,"  
One says to the other,  
In the high monkey -  
cage in the beast shop.

There are no people  
To gape at them now--  
The sky-signs are lighted,  
And people are loath to  
Peer in the dimness.  
Have they not builded  
Streets and play-houses  
Sky-signs and bars  
To slip from the lonesomeness  
Shaking the hearts  
Of the two little monkeys?

And one who watches  
The penny-small faces  
There in the dimness  
Can hear the voices  
"Ah, do not leave me,  
Suck I will give you,  
Warmth and clasping,  
And if you slip from  
This beam, I will never  
Find you again."

Dim is the evening,  
And chill is the weather:  
Behind the high window  
Like fish in a tank  
Are the two creatures  
Drawn from a colored  
Hemisphere.  
Two little monkeys  
With faces the size of

A pair of pennies,  
And voices as low as  
The flow of my blood.