

P. H. Pearse

The Fool

Since the wise men have not spoken. I speak
that am only a fool
A fool that hath loved his folly:
Yea, more than the wise men their books or
their counting houses,
or their quiet homes, or their fame in men's
mouths:
A fool that in all his days hath never done a
prudent thing.
Never hath counted the cost, nor recked if
another reaped
the fruit of his mighty sowing, content to scatter
the seed:
A fool that is unrepentant, and that soon at the
end of all
Shall laugh in his lonely heart as the ripe ears
falls to the reaping hooks
And the poor are filled that were empty. Tho' he
go hungry.

I have squandered the splendid years that the
Lord God gave to my youth
In attempting impossible thing, deeming them
alone worth the toil,
Was it folly or grace? Not men shall judge me,
but God

I have squandered the splendid years:
Lord, if I had the years I would squander them
over again,
Aye fling them from me!
For this I have heard in my heart, that a man
shall scatter, not hoard
shall not bargain or huxter with God: or was it a

jest of Christs
And is my sin before men to have taken him at
His word?

The lawyers have sat in council, the men with
the keen, long faces.
And said, "this man ias a fool." and others ahev
said, "He blasphemeth"
And the wise have pitied the fool that hath
striven to give a life
In the world of time and sapce among the bulks
of sctual things
To a dream that was dreamed in the heart, and
that only the heart could hold.

O wise men, riddle me this: what if the dream
come true?
What if the dream come true? and if millions
unborn shall dwell
In the house I shaped in my heart, the noble
house of my thought?
Lord, I have staked my soul, I have staked the
lives of my kin
On the truth of Thy dreadful word. Do not
remember my failures,
But remember this my faith.

And so I speak.
Yea, ere my hot youth pass, I speak to my
people and say:
Ye shall be foolish as I; ye shall sctater, not
save;
Ye shall venture your all, lest ye lose what is
more than all;



Ye shall call for a miracle, taking Christ at his
word.
And for this I will answer, O people, answer
here and hereafter,
O people that I have loved shall we not answer
together?