

**WILD EARTH AND
OTHER POEMS**

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Wild Earth and Other Poems by Padraic Colum

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PADRAIC COLUM

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OTHER POEMS**

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BY

PADRAIC COLUM

Author of "Three Plays," "My Irish Year"
"The King of Ireland's Son"

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1922

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THE PLOUGHER

SUNSET and silence! A man: around him earth savage,
earth broken;
Beside him two horses—a plough!

Earth savage, earth broken, the brutes, the dawn man
there in the sunset,
And the Plough that is twin to the Sword, that is founder
of cities!

“Brute-tamer, plough-maker, earth-breaker! Can'st hear?
There are ages between us.

“Is it praying you are as you stand there alone in the
sunset?

“Surely our sky-born gods can be naught to you, earth
child and earth master?

“Surely your thoughts are of Pan, or of Wotan, or
Dana?

“Yet, why give thought to the gods? Has Pan led your
brutes where they stumble?

“Has Dana numbed pain of the child-bed, or Wotan
put hands to your plough?

"What matter your foolish reply! O, man, standing
lone and bowed earthward,

"Your task is a day near its close. Give thanks to the
night-giving God."

.

Slowly the darkness falls, the broken lands blend with
the savage;

The brute-tamer stands by the brutes, a head's breadth
only above them.

A head's breadth? Ay, but therein is hell's depth, and
the height up to heaven,

And the thrones of the gods and their halls, their chariots,
purples, and splendors.