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## The Grownup Sons translated by Miller Williams

Giuseppe Gioachino Belli

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## THE GROWNUP SONS

These are your sons? Now, surely you can't mean  
these two young devils! It seems like yesterday  
when you lived over past the Appian Way,  
one was an anchovy, one a sardine.

There are only two ways to go; it sure appears  
that we have everything we need—the belts,  
the jackets, caps, guns and everything else—  
to give the pope two lovely grenadiers.

But how time flies! ten years seems like a day,  
a puff of smoke—but no, it's ten years;  
the children are chasing the big people away.

And here we are now with Goliath and Samson;  
to touch their noses you have to climb the stairs.  
Do you know what the world is? A great meditation.

*translated by  
Miller Williams*