MORE THAN MONKEY BUSINESS:

Moonlight and a Simian Mind

A monkey, moon-struck in the night,
gazes upward, bathed in light,
wondering what waits beyond
its little patch of leaf and pond.

It may know little, understand less,
and have few answers to confess;
yet still it pauses as it peers
beyond familiar branches.

While other creatures scramble, scurry,
snatch and squabble, hunt and hurry,
forever fighting to survive,refuses to hide,
this one small simian, still and unstirred,
beneath the moon with primitive thought,
wonders what may lie beyond,
beyond the boughs or bonds of branch
and bark of certainty.

And in my ciphering, I say
that wondering counts something
precious in its own way:

One question asked beneath the sky
may lift a creature, set it high
above those who, blind and bound,
never wonder or never sound
the silence for reasons why.



Four friends were attending a local poetry reading at a bookstore that also served as a art gallery and coffee shop. The heavy afternoon light filtered through its dusty windows. Nadia shifted in her seat, her gaze lingering on the previous reader as she weighed a thought aloud. *"We're still primitive simians in many ways."*

Will gave a slow, contemplative nod, his eyes narrowing slightly as he followed her line of thought. *"True. Our minds often run on semi-automatic. It's comfortable to live without thinking too much."*

Leaning forward, Kasim rested his elbows on the table and lowered his voice in quiet agreement. *"Deep thinking takes energy. It's easier to coast through life without thinking deeply."*

Wan-Sze had drifted into his own thoughts, but he returned with a quiet certainty. *"Yes. In a sense, we're only half-asleep."*

For a moment, none of them spoke. Outside, a bus passed with a low rumble, and the room seemed to settle into the hush between poems.

Then Nadia smiled faintly. *"Maybe poetry is one way of waking up."*

Will looked toward the empty podium, where the next reader was gathering their papers. *"Or at least remembering that we were asleep."*

Disclosure: *This piece was partially generated using AI tools; human editing was then applied.*

– T Newfields

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