

# **THE LAKE ISLE**

EZRA LOOMIS POUND

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O God, O Venus, O Mercury, patron of thieves,  
Give me in due time, I beseech you, a little tobacco-shop,  
With the little bright boxes  
    piled up neatly upon the shelves  
And the loose fragment cavendish  
    and the shag,  
And the bright Virginia  
    loose under the bright glass cases,  
And a pair of scales  
    not too greasy,  
And the vottailles dropping in for a word or two in passing,  
For a flip word, and to tidy their hair a bit.

O God, O Venus, O Mercury, patron of thieves,  
Lend me a little tobacco-shop,  
    or install me in any profession  
Save this damn'd profession of writing,  
    where one needs one's brains all the time.