



# Были очи

Были очи острее точимой косы  
По зегзице в зенице и по капле росы,

И едва научились они во весь рост  
Различать одинокое множество звезд.

**Осип Манделъштам**

# There were Eyes

There were eyes sharper than a whetted scythe  
A puppy in the pupil and a droplet of dew...

And having come of age, they only just learned  
To distinguish the solitary mass of stars.

**Osip Mandelstam (1891-1938)**

*translated from the Russian  
by Roger Pulvers*

*Reproduced by permission of Roger Pulvers. This poem was written on 9th February 1937, shortly before Mandelstam was arrested for "counter-revolutionary activities." He died on the way to the prison camp.*

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*John Lewis Partnership*

