

## Barterers And Their Wives

The Left Banke

Barterers and their wives  
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Trading, fading, taking, breaking  
Barter away their lives

Crowding the city gates  
Shunning the master's fate  
Low decisions they envision  
Cleaning the pauper's plates

In the marketplace changing commonplace friends  
Come to banter on odds to meet their own ends

Barterers hold their own  
Pinching on what they loan  
After seeding, people pleading  
Spending the heat alone

Who will sacrifice pride for being nice game?  
He's in season and that's the reason he came

Barterers and their trade  
Lately fall back to fade  
Every evening, packing, leaving  
Counting on what they've made

Wifely cooking will keep them looking their best  
As they smile and set out beguiling with jest

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