

HUMOR



Ogden Nash

(1902-1971)

I Never Even Suggested It (1940)

I know lots of men who are in love and lots of men who are married
and lots of men who are both,
And to fall out with their loved ones is what all of them
are most loth.
They are conciliatory at every opportunity,
Because all they want is serenity and a certain amount of impunity.
Yes, many the swain who has finally admitted that the earth is flat
Simply to sidestep a spat,
Many the masculine Positively or Absolutely
which has been diluted to an If
Simply to avert a tiff,
Many the two-fisted executive whose domestic conversation
is limited to a tactfully interpolated Yes,
And then he is amazed to find that he is being raked backwards
over a bed of coals nevertheless.
These misguided fellows are under the impression that
it takes two to make a quarrel,
that you can sidestep a crisis by nonaggression and nonresistance,
Instead of removing yourself to a discreet distance.
Passivity can be a provoking *modus operandi*;
Consider the Empire and Gandhi.
Silence is golden, but sometimes invisibility is golder.
Because loved ones may not be able to make bricks without straw
but often they don't need any straw
to manufacture a bone to pick or blood in their eye
or a chip for their soft white shoulder.

It is my duty, gentlemen, to inform you that women are dictators all,
and I recommend to you this moral:
In real life it takes only one to make a quarrel.