

REBUS POETRY

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Rebuses have been around for a long time. Most of them exploit letters only; some contain both letters and numbers; but relatively few use letters, numbers, and other typewriter symbols. If the reader will keep in mind that two identical letters, such as EE, can be pronounced either "ease" or "e-e", the following poem should not be too difficult to decode:

I'll die, my DVS sins 2 XP8
Where K9, snake and AVN
'Mid murmurs APN
XUV8;
While U, by 4N springs RTZN,
AKN DETs SML8
And 4 the water in the cooking pan
2 S28
Wait.

Dear NTT, from whom doth MN8
The Sç of U4EA 4 me;
U OPM B9, U OP8 ...
IDL HNC of XTC ...

These Dç CC pray grant: no LEGG,
No \$ S PNN 2 X-10-U8
My sins; no O my sad state.
Nay -- raise T DMM; cheer for my DCC;
Then help some new FMRL mate
EE
His TDm, and all his ç S sate
And TT.
Please.

This clever bit of symbol-play was sent to me by William Cole:

"I've missed my . ." said Stella.
"— it all!" Mark Colon was annoyed.
"I heard your !," she said. "It's not funny; remember it's my * !"
"Then have the baby," Mark said. "It will be a little ; ."
"Oh, no it won't. It'll be a : . A full : ."
"What are you getting @?"
"Marriage. I've got your # ."

"Jesus," Mark groaned in (). "Do I have to marry this O?"

"All things being =, yes," she snapped back.

"OK. It makes ¢."

"There's no ? that it does," she said firmly.

"May I get married in my +4s?" he asked.

"Don't be ,cal," she replied.

So they went 1/4 and she became his better 1/2.

The sense of the final rebus will emerge if the reader realizes that an O may be just that; or oh; or owe; or a cipher; or a zero; or an aught; or a naught;

Oy OO thO he O
 2 On an OO. OO bO
 An OO but he never thO
 He'd O the OO dealer O
 For the OO OO bO.
 Say, has OO's OO brO
 OO O that OO sO?
 OO's OO's good for O.

No doubt it only gets eight miles to the gallon.

WHAT'S IN AN INSTITUTIONAL NAME?

Continuing its survey of kangaroo words (caLumnIES, BLOssOM) the January 1974 issue of Mad Magazine takes a jaundiced look at a number of well-known institutions: Air pollUTiOn, DEMo-CrAcY, WelfAre SysTEm, wEight wATchERS, pubLIc rElat-ionS, and imPERIaLism.

THE LIVING END

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer for November 18, 1973 breathlessly reported that Robert Zzzypt had zoomed past Vladimir Zzzyd as the last person to be listed in the 1973-74 greater Miami telephone directory. However, were he to move to San Francisco, he would have to play second fiddle to Zachary Zzzzro, according to a recent edition of the Guinness Book of Records. Can anyone supply a later example?