PEACE AND TRANQUILITY

This morning we started with Peace and Tranquility — With Mary and Jean side by side in the aisle — Working together with wondrous ability With many a kind word and many a smile.

Then Mary, said "Jean have you seen my Oasis?
I left it just here on the side of this pew —
And though I have searched all the possible places —
It just isn't there, so it must be with you!"

Jean, as she stuck flowers in Peace and Tranquility, Said "Seen your Oasis? — afraid not my dear — But also", she asked with the utmost civility — "I've lost the dried grasses I left over here".

"I'd not be seen dead with your rotten dried grasses" Said Mary, "they're ghastly — I've said so before. If you weren't so vain that you wouldn't wear glasses — You'd see they had fallen down there on the floor".

"Excuse me" said Mary with icy gentility,
"But what have you done with my last orange dahlia?
Without it, I fear that our Peace and Tranquility
Will be — (there is just one word for it) - a failure".

"I trod on your dahlia", said Jean, "it looked awful—I've told you I hate them—but you, you won't learn". Then Mary did something completey unlawful, Hit Jean on the nose with a handful of fern.

They fought hand to hand, and both grabbed the arrangement. They tore it in half in their irascibility,
And that's why you see this surprising estrangement —
For this side is `Peace' and that side is `Tranquility'.

© Richard Stilgoe