

Zeitschrift: Der Kreis : eine Monatsschrift = Le Cercle : revue mensuelle
Band: 34 (1966)
Heft: 9

Artikel: Lest you be angry with me, I will talk [...]
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-569656>

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«Thanks, buddy,» he said. He took out his wallet and stuck the paper in it.
«And . . . Brian,» I said.
« . . . ?»
«Brian,» I said, liking the sound of his name. «You don't . . . have to come in uniform.»
Of all the treasured gestures of my life, I think I remember best the feel of his strong square hand on my shoulder, and its grip—as if he never wanted to let me go.

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Lest you be angry with me, I will talk
Of other things: the weather, or the gold
Of sunlight littering the garden walk.
The taste of oranges; the bitter cold
Of ale upon the tongue; the majesty
Of redwoods rising in cathedral groves;
The many moods that move the purple sea;
Of pirate's maps locating treasure troves.

All these and other things I will explore
With wit and learning or with subtle jest.
If there be subjects which would please you more
I would be glad to honor your request . . .
In manly tones or softly as a dove:
No matter what I say, I speak of Love!

by James Ramp



THIS HAPPENED IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY...

From The New York Times, Internat. Edition, Paris we quote:

Homosexual is executed by Yemen in public

SANA, Yemen, Aug. 1 (AP)—A man condemned for homosexual offenses was executed before 6,000 persons in the main square of Sana today.

A religious court had sentenced Ahmed El-Osamy, 60-years-old municipal employe.

Islamic law demands a man convicted of homosexuality be thrown from the highest point in the city. But the court said El-Osamy could be beheaded instead.

When the appointed hour arrived, the official executioner did not show up. After waiting 20 minutes, a religious judge asked the condemned man if he would consent to being shot.

El Osamy nodded affirmatively, and a police officer emptied his eight-shot revolver into his head.

The Minister of Education, Mohamed el-Khalidy, who was present at the execution, subsequently explained that the man had not only been guilty of homosexual conduct but had actually been the leader of a group of such men. Khalidy stated that it had been originally intended to throw the convicted man from an aircraft. This procedure was then rejected as being too expensive.