During the ten years I have subscribed to Word Ways, I have been amazed at the emphasis placed on the mechanics of wordplay: words have been transposed to form other words, words have been formed around letters placed in strategic positions, and similar achievements. The researchers are to be commended for their arduous efforts. There is, however, an area that has been too lightly explored: the discovery of hidden meanings or correlations that lurk in words or phrases. There is also the challenge of creating a vehicle to carry the meaning or correlation.

In this article, I demonstrate how this can be done, using as examples a word and two phrases.

The word is a rhetorical one, PROSOPOPOEIA, which can be defined as the imparting of human qualities to inanimate objects, such as the thunder clapped or the stream murmured. Rearranging the twelve letters, the following correlation or sentence is derived: I OPPOSE A POOR PROSOPOPOEIA. The following word puzzle, embodying this idea, appeared in the December 1978 Enigma of the National Puzzlers' League:

When objects can be made to speak,  
It gives the writer scope.  
But I OPPOSE A POOR or weak  
Example of this trope.

The first phrase is NONSENSE POEM. An apt rearrangement is PS - NO OMEN SEEN (since a nonsense poem is light and frothy, nothing ominous can be seen in it). The most famous nonsense poem in English is the Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll. The expansion on the next page includes words found in that poem.

The second phrase is GRIM REAPER. The rearrangement GRAPE RIMER brings to mind Omar Khayyam whose commentaries were vinous and foreboding. The second expansion on the next page extrapolates this concept.

I close with a challenge to the reader. What rearrangements can you derive from EVERLASTING or IN VINO VERITAS, and what vehicles can you create to illustrate the correlations that you find?
NONSENSE POEM

Pundit jocular narrates brillig scenes with rocky woes.
Secret ardency opens strange grove where slithy toves gyre.
Nimble baffled nymph swallows draft, shrinks as borogoves tire.
Outing bothers strolling Alice, as uffish pawns catch anares.
Oyster extinct elates Walrus to tears, no Bandersnatch cares.
Mentor relates nonsense epics and gimbles in wabe grind.
Errant wonders surprise great minds, as mome raths outgrabe, wind.
Normal orderly egotists scorn jests of Mad Hatter;
Simple cryptic pleasure charms child, as though flights had matter.
Envied knavish outbursts crowd, let game unfold in afternoon.
Enigma yellowy elates Walrus to tears, no Bandersnatch cares.
Nodding hearts maintain childhood dreams where once Jabberwocky rose.

GRIM REAPER

Grand illusion: Golden years ere they take the lion away.
Rueful delight, Rubaiyat, that chides the heart of some power,
Artfully jests, insists glory is but part of some hour.
Praises reecho, morning recalls great feats won yesterday;
Elapsing years, remorselessly, blot out yon westward day.
Refulgent hope, eagerly, issues from some womb today;
Inevitably sad, abject truth cites some doom to weigh.
Mystical faith, promising, vows some rich scene tomorrow;
Enter travails, explain what brief pleasures mean to sorrow.
Rhapsodic Omar, ruminate, while some jugs of wine allay.

WORDS

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