ESPYRAMIDS AND DOUBLETS

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Editor's Note: The following puzzles are excerpted from a book entitled Word Puzzles to be published by Dembner Enterprises in September 1983. In an "ESPYramid Up" one enlarges a one-letter word letter by letter, each addition making a new word, rearranging the letters as need dictates (a-at-tea-mate-steam-master...). The "ESPYramid Down" reverses this process, subtracting letters one at a time and rearranging the remainder. In "Doublets", inspired by the Lewis Carroll word game, a word is gradually changed into another of opposite meaning by replacing one letter at a time, the rest remaining undisturbed and each move resulting in a new word (suite-spite-spine-swine-swing-slung-stung...).

ESPYramid Up

HE SHOULD HAVE COUNTED TO TEN FIRST
- man named Tim espied an --
That vilified the --.--.
He raged, "How ---- they? It's too bad!
Who ---- such stuff? This goes too far!"
Crowds gathered 'round and ------ at him;
These too he --------, till, annoyed,
They bought a rocket, stuck in Tim,
And sent him to an --------.

FRANKLY, I'D PREFER A ROCKING HORSE
- deem -- useful, if perforce
Some day I have to --- a horse,
To find a ----- on which to fall
For final ------ and burial.
My ------ terror, I confide,
Would be to find myself -------
Some bucking beast, and die unblest:
The soul forewarned is --------.

NOTE FOUND UNDER A PILLAR IN ITALY
Sir: --, black slave, who perished --
A Roman game, amid the ---
Of crowds that when the bell went "-----!"
Roared, "Die, ------, die!" (I, vanished thing
Whom none recalls) to you whose -----
Is coming soon enough, am -----
This word: Though you'll see ------- grim,
See ------- of limb from limb,
Pray stay, as I did, -------,
Until you join the -------.

ESPYramid Down

SANS PEUR ET SANS REPROCHE

A knight ------- through a glade,
But felt ------- and much ashamed
That ladies sought him in the shade.
"Has ever knight been so -------?
I'm ------- if I, ----- Galahad,
Shall be ---- coxcomb now," he claimed.
I tell you, Galahad was ---,
Yet did the thing upon that spot
His -- had said - knight must not.

I REMEMBER WHEN YOU DID THE SAME, DEAR

With men our daughter ------- out;
At ------- she meets others.
She ------- of some she's wild about,
And then she ----- their brothers.
No ---- of female --- is guessed;
It's sucked in - - mother's breast.

I HOPE HE DID NOT GET INTO HEAVEN

When Dr. X ------- with glee
The deadly ailments he'd -------
By cathetering my inside,
He much my wicked id -------,
And swore it soon must finish me.
He even went on to -------
My face as wizened, withered, -----.
But the --- woe he prophesied
Befell not me but him: he died; 
I'm --- of him. On his debris
My -- and - dance merrily.

Doublet

ENVIOUS REFLECTIONS PROMPTED BY THE DOG DAYS OF AUGUST

The carp are ----, yet in their ----
Beneath the hissing sun stay ----.
The snakes, though broke, contented ----,
And estivate while humans boil.
isn't needed by the sweet
ripening its in heat,
Or by the rice that, free of
Sucks up the sun. But O, how
For my own to take advice
From fish or serpent, corn or!
Instead, we swelter. We should switch,
Though they are poor and we are.

THERE MAY BE A LITTLE ROTARIAN LOYALTY INVOLVED HERE
in Oysterville, the water's;
Of this we villagers are.
But I'll acknowledge to you,
That just outside the town is;
Depart no farther than a,
And you will find the water's.

NO MORE DOCH AND DORRIS FOR POOR JOCK
Jock MacIntosh, who from his
Did by a reside.
Set one day to prove his worth
And stormed the of Clyde.
A lawyer, who of knew more
Than jock e'en knew of unjustified,
And hanged jock in his.
Ah! still brave the ocean's teeth;
The sea still the rock;
The summer sun still the,
But has come to jock.

TOO BAD -- VIRTUE SOMETIMES FAILS TO TRIUMPH
"Say why do you so, dear captain, and pause?
Many missions ere this one we've.
The Rhine beneath; we'll exploit Jerry's here as well as we did on the Rhone.
The 'a bit heavy, but need not affright;
Not a will come near us, I trust.
Our blood lust we'll upon Jerry tonight;
We'll crush that into the dust."
So the co-pilot, attempting to
His captain's forebodings, but O!
In of the comforting, Jerry did;
Now the's on the face of the foe.

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.