

1850

MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Lewis Carroll

Carroll, Lewis (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) (1832-1898) - English novelist, poet, photographer, and mathematician, best known for his fantastical childrens' classics. He was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford. *Misunderstandings* (1850) - One of Lewis Carroll's poems. Opening lines: If such a thing had been my thought, / I should have told you so before,...

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IF such a thing had been my thought, I should have told you so before,
But as I didn't, then you ought To ask for such a thing no more,
For to teach one who has been taught Is always thought an awful bore.

Now to commence my argument, I shall premise an observation,
On which the greatest kings have leant When striving to subdue a nation,
And e'en the wretch who pays no rent By it can solve a hard equation.

Its truth is such, the force of reason Can not avail to shake its power,
Yet e'en the sun in summer season Doth not dispel so mild a shower
As this, and he who sees it, sees on Beyond it to a sunny bower
No more, when ignorance is treason, Let wisdom's brows be cold and sour.

THE END