

# TO BE OR NOT TO BE

A Humorous Reading

by  
Gertrude Koehler



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Every dramatic art student must fulfill his quota of Shakespeare. I have studied Hamlet's famous lines from the third act beginning with the words:

"To be, or not to be,--that is the question:--  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them?"

You should have seen the trouble I had learning them. My mother said I should say them like this:

(Imitating mother's voice) To be or not to be,--that is the question:--  
(Scolding) Peter, take your fingers out of your mouth!  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
(Scolding) Peter, stop biting your finger nails!  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
(Excited and nervous) Watch the baby! She's falling out of the coach!  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
(Agitated) The baby!  
And by opposing end them?  
(Sniffing) Is that the roast I smell burning? Please turn off the gas!

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