Matmos

"Roses and Teeth for Ludwig Wittgenstein"

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"A new born child has no teeth."

"A goose has no teeth."

"A rose has no teeth."

This last at any rateâ "

one would like to sayA¢ "

is obviously true!

It is even surer that a goose has none.

And yet it is none so clear.

For where should a rose's teeth have been?

The goose has none in its jaw.

And neither, of course, has it any in its wings;

but no one means that when he says it has no teeth.

Why, suppose one were to say:

the cow chews its food and then dungs the rose with it,

so the rose has teeth in the mouth of a beast.

This would not be absurd,

because one has no notion in advance where to look

for teeth in a rose.

(Connexion with "pain in someone else's body".)

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