

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006
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Though most of us are not formally known as diplomats, many of us learn to be experts at domestic diplomacy, and the sorts of complex negotiations we find ourselves in can require a lot of patience. Here's Dan Gerber, who lives in California, showing us some of that patience.

Marriage

When you are angry it's your gentle self
I love until that's who you are.
In any case, I can't love this anger any more
than I can warm my heart with ice.
I go on loving your smile
till it finds its way back to your face.

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