

# Wilfred Owen's Parable Updated

by [Robert Gear](#) (December 2024)



Somali Ostrich (Friedrich Wilhelm Kuhnert)

The ostrich took his large eye, claws and his son  
And carried them up a mountain  
To show the world and spread the news  
Told him by his own clan.  
(Followed closely by some chickens, beaks bobbing)

The ostrich held his son down  
Then tied him up.

The youngster asked his father  
“What would you with me, father, why do you frown?  
Why would you kill your own son? Catch rather  
The rooster caught in a thicket. He is there to kill,  
Strike him and we may recover all.  
And you are strong still.  
I have read that an angel must stay your arm.

Can't you understand?”

But the ostrich would not, and slew his son.  
And all the lands of Europe, fell, one by one.

## [Table of Contents](#)

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