

If thou hast heard a word,
let it die with thee;
and be bold,
it will not burst thee.

Ecclesiasticus, or,
The Wisdom of Jesus, the Son of Sirach 19:10

KNOW THAT IF FIRE GOES FORTH FROM YOU AND consumes other men, God will demand from your hands the souls which your fire has burned. And if you yourself do not put forth the fire, but are in agreement with him who does, and are pleased by it, in the judgment you will be reckoned as his accomplice.

St Isaac the Syrian, *Ascetical Homily 51*, p. 383

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IHAVE HEARD THAT THERE WERE TWO OLD MEN who dwelt together for many years, and who never quarrelled, and that one said to the other, “Let us also pick a quarrel with each other, even as other men do.” Then his companion answered and said unto him, “I know not how a quarrel cometh,” and the other old man answered and said unto him, “Behold, I will set a brick in the midst, and will say, ‘This is mine,’ and do thou say, ‘It is not thine, but mine’; and from this, quarrelling will ensue.” And they placed a brick in the midst, and one of them said, “This is mine,” and his companion answered and said unto him, “This is not so, for it is mine”; and straightway the other replied and said unto him, “If it be so, and the brick be thine, take it and go.” Thus they were not able to make a quarrel.

The Paradise of the Holy Fathers, Vol. II, p. 66, #299

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