

It Isn't Nice

Words and music by Malvina Reynolds; copyright 1964 Schroder Music Company, renewed 1993. Verses 4 and 6 by Joel Landy, edited by Nancy Schimmel, verse 5 by Nancy Schimmel

It isn't nice to block the doorway,
It isn't nice to go to jail,
There are nicer ways to do it,
But the nice ways always fail.
It isn't nice, it isn't nice,
You told us once, you told us twice,
But if that is Freedom's price,
We don't mind.

It isn't nice to carry banners
Or to sit in on the floor,
Or to shout our cry of Freedom
At the hotel and the store.
It isn't nice, it isn't nice,
You told us once, you told us twice,
But if that is Freedom's price,
We don't mind.

We have tried negotiations
And the token picket line,
Mr. Charlie didn't see us
We didn't even cross his mind.
Now our new ways aren't nice
When we deal with men of ice,
But if that is Freedom's price,
We don't mind.

When the corporation bandits
Tanked our economy
Did you say it wasn't proper?
Did you stand for you and me?
You were quiet just like mice,
Now you say we aren't nice
And if that is freedom's price,
We don't mind.

You think women are your servants
And your playthings and your pets
You said Hillary was nasty
Well, you ain't seen nothing yet
Not your sugar, not your spice
We are way past being nice
And if that is freedom's price,
we don't mind.

It isn't nice to shout for justice
It isn't nice to make demands
Or to gather by the thousands
No matter what the law commands
It isn't nice, it isn't nice
Well, thanks for your advice
Cause if that is freedom's price,
We don't mind.