



Puzzle #3

AUGUST CHARADES

- 1- Bombastic
- 2- Faux-pas

The Nijmegen Riddle



This painting has been posing this riddle from a wall of the Nijmegen City Hall (Netherlands) since 1658. Can you answer it?

The wife of the old man speaks:

“Remark and see that I declare
The two in red are my father’s brothers.
The two in green are my mother’s brothers.
The two in white are my children
and I, the mother, am married to the father of these six
That no degree of kinship can forbid.”

The two sons in red say:

“We would have regretted if not
our niece had been given to our father
Because she is not our father’s niece
Which nobody would easily guess.”

The two in green say:

“It is remarkable to show in these figures
that he is our natural father
And has married our niece
Which we don’t regret.”

The two in white say:

“Our father is the old man.
Our mother is the young lady.
But tell us how it is possible
That our brothers are our mother’s uncles?”