



"THE WEAKEST GOES TO THE WALL"

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"THE WEAKEST GOES TO THE WALL," Capulet's servant Gregory explains in *Romeo and Juliet* (Act 1, scene 1)-meaning that women (the "weaker vessels," as another character calls them a few lines later), as well as children and the elderly, were politely allowed to walk on the "inside track" of a sidewalk and to thus avoid getting splattered or jostled by street traffic. The phrase dates to about 1550, and the sentiment dates from about 1500.

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