




# How Our Words Affect the World Around us

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# Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity.

This is an invariable fact. While the nations hold survival recourses, armaments, technological advancements; the simple use of a few choice words could end all traffic of these goods. These words would not necessarily need to be from the lips of an influential speaker. Only an impassioned civilian.





When not looking into national ramifications of both speakers and civilians, the words we use to each other can affect us for decades. Something a person might say to us as a child, whether positive or negative, can easily follow us into late adulthood.



Words can change our perception of reality. If we return the words from childhood example; if someone was told as a child that they, for example, had a strange nose, they may begin to see themselves with a strange nose. Nothing about their body changed, but their perception of it did.






Another instance is in how we perceive others. The words of one may positively or negatively change how we view a certain person. Some of this derives from how intimately we know the speaker, however, it can come from a relative stranger and have a similar impact.



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Words applied to others before being met can also change perceptions completely. An unfriendly person who was called “friendly” before one would meet them would have the primed effect of being “friendly.” Even after days of unfriendly behavior may not dissuade us of the notion that they are friendly.

This applies heavily to other objects and groups in our world. This is one of the reasons propaganda of any kind works so well. A trusted figure telling someone what they believe another person or group is like without them having any prior experience with the group.



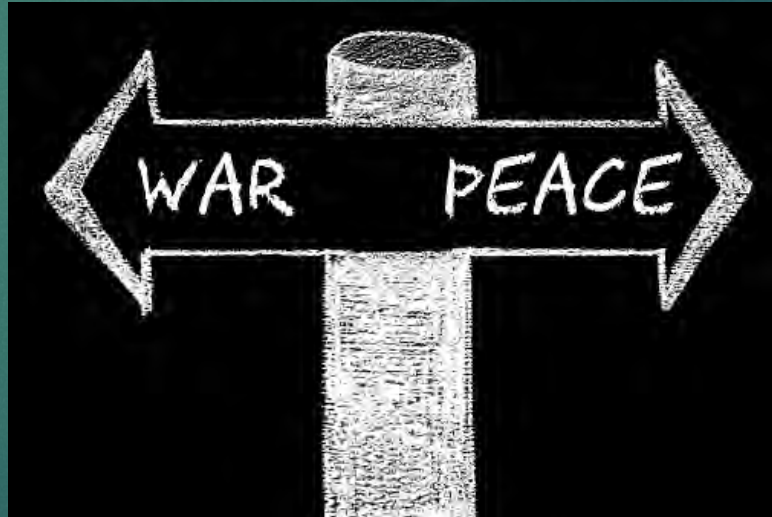
Words create filters that we see the world through. This filter affects much of ourselves. If we were told as a child that the sky is green, we may believe it for a short period of time until we spend long enough looking at the sky. However, if someone we trust continually reinforces that the sky is indeed green, we may eventually agree with them that the sky is certainly not blue. Gaslighting is a prime example of this, though it is not always a “trusted” person that can gaslight us.






The words of one person can incite a decade of international peace, while the words of another could ignite a generation of mistrust and war. The words we use, not just on a daily basis, have an indescribable power in the world. A power that can affect the reality of just one person, or the reality of the world's population.

Watching our words is doubly important. One wrong phrase could spiral a close friendship into something irreparable. But one right sentence could save a person's life.







This is why we must watch and think about what we say. A misplaced idea or a missaid word could mean all the difference to those close to us. One small misstep, one misaligned syllable or sound can change a word's meaning positively or negatively. We should strive to make what we say be able to help instead of hinder. To raise up instead of to hurt. To be a voice of reason and hope instead of one of conflict and strife. And to use our actions to justify helpful and uplifting words.