

What make “Bad Words” bad?

Consider of these words: fuck... shit... piss... crap... cunt... prick... asshole... cocksucker... motherfucker... What do they have in common?

First and foremost, our society considers them bad, dirty, obscene and so on. These are words one does not use in “polite” company. These are words men should not use around women. These are words adults should not use around children. These are words that women should not use at all.

Second, almost without exception, these words describe either body parts or body functions relating either to reproduction or the elimination of waste, both of which are perfectly normal, necessary, and natural processes. There are a few exceptions such as bastard and son-of-a-bitch, but even they relate to our parentage, hence to reproduction. (Goddamnit, on the other hand, is a religious curse and therefore completely outside the scope of this treatise.)

Does this not strike you as somewhat odd? How did the process by which we replicate our species, and the various acrobatics and practices related to it, come to be considered dirty? If our parents hadn’t “fucked”, none of us would be here. And all of our fathers are, *ipso facto*, motherfuckers, arguably the baddest of all the bad words. Poor daddy, that his name should sink so low...

And why is it perfectly fine to eat, but when it comes out the other end, it’s dirty? Were we not able to shit and piss, we would die from the accumulation of waste products inside of us. Not only that, but nature has designed our waste material to be the agency by which regeneration of the soil occurs so that new growth can occur. It is part of a cyclical system that allows life to continue. The same can be said for reproduction.

Again, is this not a strange way to look at that which sustains our life processes? Without pointing too long and hard a finger at certain institutions and ways of thinking both antiquated and obsolete, let us proceed to see if we can rectify this most grievous error in modern man’s thinking. How to make the “bad” words normal is the task to which we will address ourselves.

Obviously, the answer lies in education. First, we as adults must educate ourselves as to the very real necessity of calling a halt to considering necessary life processes as dirty or bad. Are we so shallow and sheltered that we cannot see what an extremely serious psychological situation we have created and maintained for a very long time? What is the effect on our minds

of the viewpoint that sex and waste-elimination are bad. As Freud so clearly saw, this view of sex is the fundamental starting point of many of our neuroses and psychoses.

Next, we must educate our children. If young children were exposed to and encouraged to use all of the so-called “bad” words, they would soon grow quite used to them and then the words themselves would become what they really are: colloquial expressions relating to necessary life processes. At first, there would be a hew and cry from those antiquated ones who shrink from life and seek to hide in silly flowery evasions of truth, but it would soon dissolve. The youngsters themselves might be slightly titillated at first if they knew they were doing something naughty, but this would quickly pass.

It is not in the interests of real mental health to continue to allow this serious dichotomy of thinking and acting to continue. We must investigate and analyze this predicament in the cold light of reason and act to relieve ourselves and our children from this unnecessary and mentally restrictive mode of thought. It might be slightly painful at first to retrain ourselves about the open use of these “naughty sounds with meaning”, but, in the long run, we will all be better off if we allow ourselves the right to return to sanity, that is, the sanity which understands that normal, natural life processes are not “dirty” and the vernacular expressions which describe them are not “bad.”

As an afterthought, why aren't hydrogen bomb, murder, gang violence, Ebola virus and so on considered "dirty words"? These are words that describe devices, acts and life forms that are definitely inimical to human welfare. Doesn't it strike you as odd that natural, necessary biological processes are thought of as obscene or pornographic and should not be seen or spoken of while items that are of distinct detriment to human beings are perfectly fine to discuss in "decent" conversation or visual presentation? Does not make sense: food for thought...

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