

WORDS

Address given by Supreme Reverend Mother Audrey

Glastonbury - June 2016

We are often told about the power of thoughts and most of us recognise that power. But we are not perfect and even though we know this, we also know how hard it is to put into practice. Regular meditation helps, of course, but that too needs quite a degree of self-discipline. So, what happens to unruly thoughts? Well they spill out into words. How often have we said belatedly “I just didn't think”..... but by then the words are out and the damage is done. Expletives and blasphemous expressions fall almost unnoticed from our lips.

The blessed thing is that words can also be used to mitigate, to apologise, to soothe, to comfort, to praise, to elevate, to convey emotion and most of all to express LOVE. And perhaps that's the reason that we were, of all the animals given voice. So let's look at WORDS.

First, I would refer you to the Bible homily in the Book of James, where we are reminded of the use of the smallest member of our body – the tongue. Read it for yourselves. It'll be well worth the time and effort. If you remember nothing else I've said, please read the Book of James in the New Testament and, as we used to say, read, Mar, learn, and inwardly digest.

Secondly, in the Old Testament in Psalm 141:3–4 we have the instruction “Set a guard O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips”. Words to live by, indeed.

You will hear many words here tonight and though they are words of LOVE and WISDOM and great KNOWLEDGE you will forget most of them quite quickly. So we have a splendid words in English – which is GIST. If you remember the gist of all that is said here: you will do well. If you really want the words as well, look at a look on our website, particularly at the New Moon, and you will be able to tap into all that love knowledge and great wisdom.

Meanwhile what of everyday people like you and me? What can we learn about WORDS? Some years ago, and elderly neighbour gave me a notebook for a present as I was leaving the area and we'd always had a good relationship. I wanted to make something special of her simple gift, so I decided I would fill the notebook with poems, sayings or quotations that really resonated with me. Over the past 10 years I have almost filled it. I still have great pleasure in reading the things I've copied in to the notebook and though Joyce died and never saw what I did with her gift, I think of her and remember her gentle presence whenever I read from it – occasionally in public – always honouring the friendship we had. Often I'm asked for a copy of the words I've taken from people of great wisdom as people appreciate their validity.

Another important thing to remember about WORDS, is that sometimes they stick in the memory for years – a lifetime even. If you know you have let words out in anger and spite, try to swallow your pride and apologise as soon as possible so as to reconcile. Words spoken in anger often last longer than most spoken in kindness or love, so we need to put things right as soon as possible.

Memory is often fickle, but, if strong emotions are involved words are sometimes the only way to mend bad memories. We all say things we shouldn't, and we suffer: The “I” word is particularly dangerous, though by nature we are all egocentric!

Our old friend ANON tells us “Speak softly and sweetly. If your words are soft and sweet they won't be so hard to swallow if you have to eat them – nor will you get indigestion!” More wise

words come from Joanne Harris, the writer of *Chocolat*: WORDS, well placed, can end a regime, can turn affection into hatred, can start a religion – or even a war. Words are the shepherds of lies, they lead the best of us to the slaughter!

Another aspect of words – they can teach, they can encourage, they can warn – they can also cause great suffering. The answer is always in us. Words have been used by we humans over many centuries in order to express how we feel: It is what sets apart from all other members of God's creation.

Just hold on a moment... don't others of God's creation also communicate to express their feelings and desires? I am an avid watcher of wildlife and where I live there is a wildlife conservation area just five minutes' walk away. I often go there to watch swans, geese of all kinds, coots, moorhens and the like. I enjoy watching them skim along the water, rear their young lovely trustingly near to footpaths or on the islands in the centre of the lodge.

I watch the different species interact and entertain one another. Often I see and hear a skein of geese flying from the lodge to another in the south-east of my home town. Earlier last year a pair of swans nested as usual near the footpath, a lovely large nest half hidden in the reeds and eventually produced six beautiful cygnets. We locals crept respectfully round them day by day and they grew fast.

Then, one neighbour reported there were only four to be seen. Later that week, three then just two and within another week all gone! The culprits were humans (they had been seen looking about at dusk), either deliberate theft or to take them to be eaten. You can see the mourning of the beautiful adult swans as they swam aimlessly about the nest they had made with such hope. What words had those humans uttered as they committed such a crime? What words could put it right?

As we think about human communication these days, we recognise that great advances have been made in technology. Very few households now are without a television, computer, iPod, tablet et cetera, and most pockets or handbags carry a mobile or smartphone. Even our little ones, who can barely talk are proficiently thumbing away in order to learn or amuse themselves.

Educators are beginning to wonder if we are moving into a society of isolationists as people talk less to one another, and four year olds coming into school cannot hold even basic conversations, but can use these machines with consummate skill. Where are we heading? Will they come a time when we no longer need words?

This twenty first century is so very exciting. We are on the threshold of the great new Aquarian age. The age of communication and of AGAPE – unconditional love. Can it be that we are on the brink of change evolutionary? Well, it certainly looks as if we are to have prehensile forms if nothing else!

Our Essenic knowledge tells us that members of the animal kingdom – great, holy wise beings as they are- are here to teach and guide us back to who we are meant to be. They come here DUMB and entirely in our power (or governance as the Bible puts it). They are pure, knowing no malice, simply being. More and more is being revealed to us about these creatures who share our planet, by people like David Attenborough and others who make programmes about wildlife, and we're encouraged to learn about and respect them in our local conservation areas. This includes those animals we think we know so well and who share our homes. I'm sure many people here could tell a story about their cat, dog, horse, bird who has demonstrated its intelligence, its love, its distress or need. How does that happen without words?

Could it be that the next step in our evolution is to be able to communicate without words? We already do it to some extent - for example I was a little late for choir practice. My friend is the accompanist and as I entered he looked at me whilst continuing to play: I inclined my head, no words were spoken but we have communicated a greeting. I wonder if in this New Age we are being shown how to do without damaging words altogether? Maybe that's not so daft as it sounds, if you think about it. Look to our animal friends, and learn from them. Man has always had it in his head that he is superior to animals. Is he?. He was given governance, which many took to be possession – but which actually means giving care and protection. WORDS again.

Wise ones from the past were able to live with wild animals: remember Elijah who is fed by the ravens, Daniel who walked in the lion's den: John the Baptist who lived in the desert. Think of all the naturalists to make such wonderful programmes for us, and how they relate to God's creatures of every kind.

There will always be a smidgen of evil in our world and, in spite of all the fear being generated at the moment, it **is** a smidgen. Most people we meet are good ordinary souls without an ounce of malice – this is the world of LOVE brought about by the work of great entities like the Buddha, Brahmin, Jesus, Mohammed, and Melchizedek. They brought knowledge of love into the world and their disciples have spread this WORD. However, once again, true spirit, true unconditional love is what is being shown to us by the Animal Kingdom in the new Age of Aquarius

And for that no words are needed!

So mote it be