

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 34 (1971)
Heft: [10]

Vorwort: The power of your word
Autor: W.R.

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 16.05.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

THE POWER OF YOUR WORD

WE ALL AT TIMES are liable to create misunderstandings through the misuse of words, by not giving sufficient thought to the manner in which we use them, and the simplicity and clarity of their meaning.

Words are living things; they are the children of the mind and they reflect back upon us the image of our creation.

In our home, in business and pleasure, the greatest safeguards against misconstruction of words is to remember that simplicity and courteousness are the foundation stones of the faculty of speech and understanding.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "A man cannot speak but he judges himself. With his will or against his will he draws his portrait to the eye of his companions by every word. Every opinion reacts on him who utters it. It is a thread-ball thrown at a mark, but the other end remains in the thrower's bag".

We must think clearly before we speak. We must train ourselves to marshal our thoughts, we must by constant thinking learn to distinguish the effects, good or bad, our speaking will reflect. The old proverb "Silence is Golden" has a lot of merit. However, there will be times in our lives where we cannot escape to speak, where it even can become our duty. There is also a right time where a few careful words will have a profound effect, but are meaningless if not said at the right time.

Every morning when we wake up let's make this humble prayer: "Lord grant us the wisdom to say the right thing at the right time."

—W.R.