

**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.

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## 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.