

Word

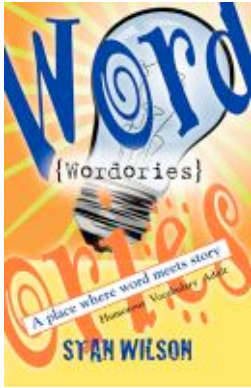


{Wordories}

A place where word meets story

Humorous Vocabulary Adult

STAN WILSON



Wordories is a book of pure imagination. A wordory is a one-paragraph story or thought in which vocabulary words are intentionally incorporated. The content is humorous and, on occasion, mildly adult. The intent is to make exposure to vocabulary an enjoyable experience. Words are defined both at the wordory and in a glossary. The book would make a wonderful addition to anyone's library, both for pleasurable reading and as an educational reference book.

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WORDORIES

A place where word meets story

Stan Wilson

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To my best pal and wife, Fran, for her love, encouragement, and
scrumptious green beans.

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AUDACIOUS : bold and daring {bending rules}

Stephen's eyes were transfixed by the woman's brooch. A drop of distant memory had splashed across his awareness but only with a faint scent, familiar but unknown. Continuing to search, his brain subconsciously executed audacious forays into remote cells never before explored to wrest forgotten knowledge from the abyss of nothingness. The extreme penetration of deep concentration was overheating his cranium, releasing beads of radiator sweat from his soaked forehead. He was nanoseconds from reaching realization as brainwaves began to coalesce into a climactic memory. Then he blinked.

transfix : to render stationary {as if impaled}

wrest : to extract forcefully



HUBRIS: overbearing pride

It was the largest plane ever built with a wingspan greater than the tallest Chicago skyscraper. Its maiden flight was attended by the top executives of Hubris Corporation, who were renowned for having the most gigantic cocks in corporate America. The company was adamant—their commercial products had to be the most mammoth available. As the plane lifted off the runway, the sound of ripping trousers emanated from the executive bleachers.

adamant : unyielding

mammoth : gigantic

emanate : to come forth



GOSSAMER : light, thin

The new currency was a stroke of fiscal genius, thought the Secretary of Treasury. The bills were so gossamer that the

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slightest breeze would send them whistling into the stratosphere. There were even some unconfirmed reports of bills literally floating out of people's wallets. Billions had been spent on new printing presses, and once the incipient phase had been proven superior to other government scams, specially equipped, high-flying aircraft with enormous vacuum systems (called Greenvac) supervened to capture the high-altitude floaters. A special committee had carefully considered every minute detail of the project. The Secretary was pleased pink. Now, if he could only locate those volunteer pilots.

incipient : in an early stage

supervene : to follow immediately after {can alter the situation}
{often not expected}



ENDOCRINE : secreting internally

They had been a happy, peripatetic lot, thoroughly exploring every planet on foot. The crew now realized why the planet Flaturanus was depicted by a brown cloud in the Galaxy Atlas. They had no choice but to mutiny. Only two hours earlier, a crew member had untethered his lifeline and drifted into deep space—OF HIS OWN FREE WILL! The captain simply had to be quarantined. Since lifting from Flaturanus's surface, a parasite had infected his organs. His pancreas, in particular, had released an endocrine substance that turned the skin brown. The side effects were far worse. Even the higher life forms Earth Control had chosen for this mission could withstand only so much olfactory abuse. The captain was excreted from the ship.

peripatetic : traveling continually {on foot} {trying to keep up with Aristotle}

parasite : one who lives at the expense of others {without contributing}

olfactory : pertaining to smelling

excrete : to expel as waste

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FARINACEOUS : made from or like flour or meal, starchy

The bride had gone way too far in preparing for her wedding night. Although her mother would have been shocked, she had surreptitiously placed a meal between her thighs that consisted of a concoction of flour, gelatin, spices, and salsa. Unfortunately, this farinaceous preparation assumed the consistency of plaster of Paris and the adhesive properties of Super Glue. To the bride's amazement and delight, her new spouse, also eager to be creative and provocative on their first night, had ingested a Mexican potency elixir made from crazy weed and jumping beans. It turned a normal erection into a phallic jackhammer. The couple survived, but the hotel was demolished.

surreptitious : secret {sly}

provocative : tending to excite

elixir : a magical or medicinal potion



APLOMB : self-possession, poise{no self-image issues}

During an unscheduled evening respite, the Olympic diver had decided upon a plan to ease his tension for the next day's big event. A Mexican diver had told a story of how he once dove off a cliff at night with no view of the sea below. Aerial gyrations are automatically regulated by a diver's internal body clock, rendering a view of the water surface totally irrelevant. The stadium was pitch-black as the intrepid Olympian ascended the high dive. While standing on the tip of the board, he visualized the aplomb he would display the next day that would have no rivals among the other Olympic hopefuls. He sensed this dive would change his life as he fell and twisted in the cool stadium air. This proved a remarkably accurate prophecy since the pool had been drained two hours earlier.

respite : an interval of rest or relief {something given}

intrepid : fearless

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SANGUINE : confident, optimistic {all the time}

Reggie was enthralled by his new acting audition—to be lucky enough to recite the most important line in the play, a famous play at that, and on Broadway. He had battled tenaciously to be free of the ghetto, free of all the violence, crime, and lowlife. This one line would ignite his career and propel him into a much richer future. He was sanguine about his acting for he had practiced for weeks and mastered every intonation: “Yes inspector, Madam remained quite calm when she discharged the pistol into the master’s abdomen.” Reggie was on stage now and seemed to be identifying with the scene. “Did anyone witness the shooting?” asked the inspector. Reggie suddenly felt he had practiced for years as he confidently blurted, “Yo pig, the ice bitch gut-blasted this mother-fuckinhonkie!”

enthrall : to captivate

tenacious : hard to defeat {respectful}

intonation : pattern of pitch changes in speech



PRESCIENCE : knowing things before they
happen {beyond anticipation}

The fortuneteller was very confused. Her crystal ball flashed completely contradictory messages concerning her customer’s future: at one time, a bride and a plush limousine; at another, a poor soul whose penury caused her not only to look like she lived on the wrong side of the tracks but had actually been hit by the train. A rare inquietude washed over her. Anger toward this disturbing customer then began to swell while the fortuneteller fretted over her dwindling powers of prescience. Her rage was becoming uncontrollable as yet even more bewildering chaos was emitted from her crystal ball. Just as she was about to spring upon the perpetrator of her woes, she

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heard the voice, “OK, playtime’s over. All schizophrenics please return to your cells.”

penury : extreme poverty

inquietude : uneasiness

perpetrator : a person who performs or executes {as an offense}



PUTATIVE : reputed, supposed

Andrew’s performance appraisal wasn’t going well. His manager had just indicated that one of his strongest personal traits was, in reality, one of his weakest, at least according to the feedback form in his hand. Andrew immediately responded by calling such an assessment ludicrous, and he wanted to know the name of this putative colleague. As Andrew soon realized, the contentious aspect of this response was that his manager had no clue what “putative” meant. He warned Andrew not to engage in sexually perverse innuendo. “Let’s move on,” the manager said. “I also feel that you never defend yourself.” Finally, he suggested that Andrew sign up for a course to improve his language skills.

ludicrous : ridiculous {in an amusing way}

contentious : argumentative

innuendo : an oblique allusion, insinuation {negative}



SEMINAL : like seed, making up a source, very original

Susan was a true experimentalist. She had decided to get pregnant but not by the conventional means—no siree! Being a volunteer for an imminent and unique scientific experiment, Susan soon found herself standing on a diving board above a swimming pool of live sperm, which the scientists called the “seminal sea.” As Susan dove deep into the pool, a huge piranha sperm, accidentally imported from remote central Brazil, penetrated her as if equipped with egg-seeking radar. She came

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immediately. Nine months later, fecund Susan gave birth by cesarean, which unfortunately involved breaking her rib cage, to a 30-pound scaly girl, who couldn't wait to breast-feed.

imminent : just about to happen

fecund : fertile {productive}



SATURNINE : gloomy, morose {bitter}

Mr. Tonguejammer was about to finish a debate for dogcatcher of Skunkkeister Hollow. Although the crowd looked a little saturnine due to recent mutilations by wild dogs, he knew just the right closing remarks to lift their spirits. With this he could run for the White House. "My fallow Armenians, we can together change the course of hysterectomy. First of all, let me state clearly that defecate spending needs to be plugged. I'll have none of that crap in my admenstruation. I am a fecal conservatory. On the defense front, I've been sadly informed that a number of retard countries have entered the pukuler age. Do we honestly want our grandchildren to be faced with all this barf and crap? As far as the educational debate over absolution vs. cremation, I must side with the Christmas Conservatories. In conclusion, my fallow citizens, I'm proud to decimate my life to pubic service. Remember, a vote for Tonguejammer is a vote for pain talk." While departing the stage, Tonguejammer's opponent, whose veracity was never questioned, turned to him and remarked, "That brought tears to my eyes."

fallow : not in use, inactive {sometimes the mind}

absolution : a freeing from blame

veracity : truthfulness {frequent}

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RAPACIOUS : plundering, voracious, greedy {brutal}

Toto was a Brazilian Indian who had been gradually witnessing a complete alteration of his environment. The bulldozers, cranes, and trucks had multiplied by parthenogenesis and devoured the rain forest like a rapacious locust swarm would a cornfield, leaving nothing. The lush, green canopies of the forest; the turbulent, virgin mountain streams; the nocturnal sounds of the most unique life forms on earth were all vanishing. Toto stood in the middle of a cleared section, while dreaming of a past habitat where native and nature lived peacefully together. The strength of his dream was downright Herculean; in it he restored the terrain as it had been. He wished with all his strength that he would never again see such devastation. At that moment, he was struck by a dump truck and died instantly.

parthenogenesis : development of an egg without fertilization

turbulent : characterized by agitation or instability

nocturnal : pertaining to night

habitat : the natural environment of living things



NEXUS : a connection or link

Raymond instantly recognized the ballplayer's gait as he made his way to the batter's box. This realization was manifest in a myriad of familiar mannerisms: there was the recognizable bull-like dirt-kick with the right foot, the same plate-tap with the end of the bat, and even the head cock as the pitcher delivered strike one. The player could have been Raymond himself several years ago. It was a coincidental nexus, which assumed an embarrassing realness when the batter struck out. Raymond's curiosity drove him to wait by the locker-room door at the end of the game. When the player finally emerged, Raymond inquired, "Excuse me, could I have a few words?"

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“Sorry,” the ballplayer responded, “here comes my mother.” Even at a distance, Raymond recognized the curvaceous form of his father’s lifelong secretary.

myriad : a huge number {unknown}

manifest : evident {from a sign}



A WORDORY TETRALOGY

{1} **NOMINAL** : in name only, insignificant

It’s probably pretty easy for a brain. A few synapses here, a couple of electrical discharges there, and soon it’s a real idea. This presupposes, of course, that the brain performing this feat is actually conscious, i.e., the left side is saying, “Hi,” to the right side via the corpus callosum and receiving more than just, “Sorry, I have a headache,” in response. The evolutionary process (or space creatures) that had the nerve to inflict Homo sapiens with consciousness wrote no warranty on the invention’s reliability. Inputted from the same database, raw information is sifted, and one consciousness can happily arrive at a completely different conclusion from another, more petulant consciousness—yet both can get a good night’s sleep. Given this tendency toward irreproducibility, it is perhaps worthwhile to explore one of the less nominal activities of consciousness: DECISION MAKING. Now where was I?

petulant : ill-tempered

{2} **ABSTRUSE** : hard to understand

A highly technical method of making decisions, and a subject of many abstruse academic studies, relies on a kind of calculus largely resorted to by conservative extremists: “Take it to the limit.” The limit to the philosophy of “take time to smell the roses,” for example, would be to sniff away to the point of

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vomiting. Such an outcome would not only tarnish the aromatic reputation of roses but would probably restrict the spread of this philosophy to gluttons only. It might also result in a serious debilitating effect on a person's well-being. One mundane means of avoiding the more unsavory consequences of limits is to practice "moderation in all things," which, when taken to the limit, is the definition of boredom.

debilitate : to weaken

mundane : ordinary {routine}

{3} **CONTINGENT** : dependent, possible

A second dominant mode of decision making involves "choosing the lesser of two evils" (or the least of multiple evils, depending on how devilish you happen to be feeling). The "two evils" scenario is particularly attractive to those addicted to voting. For a minority not bound by a deadline, a more cryptic subset of this approach, "dialectic forgetfulness," should be considered largely because it is not always contingent upon remaining conscious. Here, procrastination is employed only for a period sufficient to forget the major contradictions between the two evils and to allow a synthesis of the two to be pursued, such as "Eat the roses." Sounds like the gluttons win again.

scenario : imagined sequence of events

dialectic : logical investigation

cryptic : mysterious {often done on purpose}

procrastination : postponement

{4} **VITIATE** : to make impure, to spoil

There is, of course, the sticky problem of predestination—basically, decision denial. Constant exposure to this pattern of thinking can vitiate the brain, making it unfit as an instrument for survival. A less archaic version places emphasis on major movement at a four- to five-year frequency of one's own

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volition due to bioprogramming by the educational process. At this frequency, a person has been known to engage in completely irrational acts, such as being nice to others just to get away from them. Prolonged periods of motionlessness eventually lead to spontaneous groveling, which is not a pretty sight. Over extreme periods, dialectic forgetfulness is engaged automatically, what drops out is taken to the limit, and one becomes an expert—sort of the absolute zero of motion. I think it's time for a nap.

archaic : extremely old

volition : conscious choice



VAPID : tasteless, dull, uninteresting

While waiting outside a restaurant on the wrong side of town, Jake couldn't believe he had let his sister talk him into breaking bread with Louise, his sister's plain, blonde friend, whom he considered absolutely vapid. She seemed to say and do the most airhead things, activities on which Jake would certainly not waste one millisecond of his valuable time. She probably invited him here to show off to her friends. Jake hated to be thought of as only a status symbol and was positively dreading the evening. "Hi Jake," Louise said as she sashayed up wearing a designer blue chiffon dress. "I'm absolutely famished," she continued, "after all the ballet, debate club, horseback riding, and homecoming-queen rehearsal I did this morning. Helped my grandmother clean out her attic this afternoon. Sure could use someone with an old beat-up truck to haul the junk away. This place was voted restaurant of the year once again. I think I'll have their succulent Peking Duck and Mondovi Chardonnay. What have you been up to, Jake?" "Oh, I got up late, watched football all day, and changed a flat on my truck," replied Jake. "Sure could go for a burger, fries, and a Bud. Damn, I bet this place doesn't even have TVs. What'd you want to see me about, Louise?"

famished : extremely hungry

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NEFARIOUS : wicked, vile

Mark contemplated when he had stopped asking himself about the meaning of life and its many possibilities, when he began to find the abnegated topic almost boring. It was an odd phenomenon given that other types of questions, such as, how the brain worked or what was the shape of the universe, still held a fascination. It wasn't that he had suddenly joined a nefarious cult and worshiped the dark side. In fact, Mark felt reasonably complacent and smug about his existence. This was until recently when one of his nefarious schemes for obtaining archeological relics got him into deep trouble with the local authorities. He hoped that the meaning of life would be revealed at the moment of death. He considered the blindfold a nice touch as the captain barked, "Ready, aim...." Wrong!

abnegate : to deny to oneself {something wanted}

nefandous : unspeakable



PROSELYTIZE : to make converts

The friendship between Janet and Tiffany most definitely had ended and given way to a bitter competition for buying just about anything not protected by a "no trespassing" sign. Janet suspected that her neighbor possessed the ultimate pack-rat persuasion when she first proselytized Tiffany to the garage-sale craze. Post purchase of virtually everything for sale, Tiffany actually bid for the garage. Soon both of their yards were overflowing with everything from old Studebaker hubcaps to five-gallon cans of Drano. Neither made any attempt to winnow their chattels. Tiffany's pile of plunder had finally reached such proportions that her house collapsed. The call to 911 was, sadly, too late. The next day, Janet received notice that her lot had been declared a municipal dump site.

winnow : to separate the good from the bad

chattels : movable personal property

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EPHEMERAL : fleeting, short-lived {perishable}

“Dad, you really should consider getting a hearing aid,” Tom implored. “Oh, come on Tom. Don’t you think I’m a little old to get laid? Hee, hee.” “No! No! Hearing aid! Your hearing is getting dang worse.” Tom was near yelling. “Of course, I’d like to bang a nurse. But really! Hee, hee.” His dad’s eyes lit up. Tom could take no more. His dad’s audio perception had turned from acceptable to difficult to ephemeral to near baseline. “Dad, someone needs to mow the grass.” “Sure, sure son, I know the neighbor’s got a nice ass.” Exasperated, Tom pushed the chair from the table and stood. “I’m going out to change the front gate lock.” “Well ok, if you say so,” his dad replied. Some fifteen minutes later, Tom heard police sirens next door. As he walked over to investigate the commotion, Tom looked in horror as the police were leading his father out of the neighbor’s house in handcuffs. When Tom’s dad saw him standing in the street, he bellowed, “I just did what you said and showed the neighbor lady my cock.”



DENOUEMENT : the outcome, the solution,
the unraveling of a plot

The contagion was spreading rapidly throughout the county. Medical Director Dr. I.B. Yomama had labored for weeks to uncover the carrier of one of the most uniquely grotesque contagions ever visited upon the human male: a slow twist of the penis into a knot, followed by paroxysms of excruciating pain, a kaleidoscope of colors, and eventual sad departure—much like an apple falling from a tree. After exhaustive investigation, the real butt-scratching denouement was a total surprise. As odd as it may seem, each reported case followed extensive exposure to mothers-in-law. The decision to quarantine all mothers-in-law for one year thankfully resulted

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in an abrupt termination of what had become known as “Yomama’s Plague” and an order-of-magnitude increase in the county’s birthrate.

grotesque : distorted, bizarre

paroxysm : a fit



SLAKE : to satisfy, to quench

The year is 2053. Sniff began his day like any other—making a few obscene phone calls and slashing his irritating neighbor’s tires before speeding to work. The print editor grabbed him by the collar and smashed his head against the wall just as he entered the news office. “Sniff, I want you to cover this morning’s hot news lead. Some asshole is helping the elderly cross the street over on 4th and Jefferson. The person’s probably ripping them off somehow, but we need to check it out in case it’s real. Could make the lead story.” Just as the editor turned, Sniff delivered a formidable kidney punch that sent him reeling into the water dispenser. To slake the thirst for a story for his bloodied boss, Sniff snarled, “I’ll check it out,” as he flashed the receptionist when exiting the office. The little girl assisting the elderly proved to be an authentic Good Samaritan, which so infuriated Sniff that he broke both of her legs in a hit-and-run. The next day a laconic headline read, “GOODY TWO-SHOES FOILED.” No story followed.

laconic : using few words {sometimes puzzling}



INSALUBRIOUS : unhealthy, unwholesome

Alfred was seeing objects in triplicate. He had been consuming gin and tonic at the bachelor party for some six hours—which was a special problem because Alfred was subjugated by alcohol. Alfred’s tendency toward insalubrious gin consumption had caused him a wide assortment of sorrows,

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ranging from liaisons with unsavory women to a virtual eternity of headaches and a volcanic stomach. But Alfred realized the very worst affliction, which emerged in his sober moments, was a loss of identity—dreams, if you like—that impelled him to return to the house of Bacchus and continue the search.

subjugate : to dominate

impel : to drive forward {considerable force}



FELICITOUS : suitable to the occasion, apt

Sir Stonestroke—kind of had a ring to it. Stonestroke was about to be knighted for saving a small village in the lowlands from a horrendous flood. True to his surname, Stonestroke plugged a hole in the dike surrounding the village with his cock. The Queen opined, “Jolly good—stiff upper foreskin as it were.” Stokestroke designed a sui generis coat of arms that was a felicitous symbol of his knighthood. It depicted the Queen bending over and kissing an enormous dick protruding through a stone wall. Underneath was engraved: “Stonestroke—Protector of the Queen’s Dikes.”

opine : to express an opinion

sui generis : unique



SPLENETIC : bad-tempered, irritable {by nature}

Conrad had a very, very serious problem—he could not keep a secret no matter how hard he tried. His brother had just informed him of being fired from his six-figure job, and he, in no way, wanted to ruin his wife’s foray into baby showers by telling her now. Conrad had to think fast because his sister-in-law was approaching from across the room. Pain was the answer, he thought. “Hi, Conrad,” Sharon kissed him on the cheek. “How are you planning on paying for all this, Sharon?” blurted Conrad as he hit himself hard in the head with an

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empty plate. Sharon's face looked puzzled. At first she pulled away, thinking Conrad was acting even more splenetic than usual, not to mention the new self-destructive habits. Sharon was about to wipe some of the blood flowing from his forehead when Conrad busted out with, "Are you employable, Sharon?" and immediately plunged a fork into his thigh. Sharon froze. "Guess my brother is searching I'llworkforfood.com right now," asserted Conrad just as a knife penetrated his ear. Sharon suddenly fainted. The paramedics were wheeling Conrad to the ambulance when his brother approached. "Conrad, what happened? You didn't tell Sharon anything did you?" "Mum's the word, you derelict," replied Conrad, who by now was destitute of any self-mutilation restraints, as he began to strangle himself with the IV line.

foray : an initial venture

destitute : utterly lacking



TIMOROUS : fearful, timid {extreme}

Each passing breath brought more dread to nervous Elliot. His hands had been transformed into veritable waterfalls as he waited, with rising anxiety, to be introduced. He wished he possessed at least a hint of braggadocio. His disposition during the past fifteen minutes had shifted from uneasy to timorous to paralyzed. He was certain no law of physics had yet been discovered that would allow his quivering frame to be transported to the podium to address a thousand quizzical faces (not the claque he had requested), all waiting to explode in uproarious laughter at his first stupid remark, which he was certain would be immediate. After wobbling up to deliver his overly memorized and much abridged speech, a totally dehydrated Elliot hesitantly whimpered, "F-F-FIR-RE," into the microphone.

braggadocio : pretentious bragging

claque : an audience paid to clap

abridge : to shorten {core kept}

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PANEGYRIC : a formal speech of praise, a eulogy

A sudden heart attack had not changed that Richard's boss of 20 years had been a most despicable form of low-life. There was the particularly nefarious scheme his boss and some vice presidents had cooked up that resulted in a supplier's bankruptcy. He couldn't pass up any sexual opportunity, be it with a secretary or one of his colleague's surgically altered wives. Then there was all the cash made on booze and drugs sold to the general staff. Richard himself was often forced to unload low quality and unsafe parts to customers. Now Richard was about to deliver a lachrymose panegyric to all his boss's associates and their families: "My fellow employees of Up Yours Corporation, we are gathered here today to mourn the loss of one of us."

lachrymose : mournful



ABSTEMIOUS : refraining from pleasure
{food or strong drink in particular}

Gloria was someone compelled to change her daily routine just to prove to herself that she, and not some ubiquitous advertising agency, was in control of her life. After one particularly glutinous evening of being served a painful heap of all-you-can-eat ads on TV, Gloria vowed to adopt a more abstemious lifestyle, beginning with a two-week fast. This only led to a dizzy oscillation of famine and gorging (which precluded any weight loss) until she finally ingested small amounts of a liquid concoction extracted from her great grandmother's cookbook. Carbon dioxide was created in the stomach that provided a feeling of satisfaction, with the only irritating side effect being a sudden release of gas from every available bodily aperture. Amazingly, Gloria shed 70 pounds in two weeks and realized that her great grandmother's recipe could aggrandize her bank account. She decided to advertise on TV.

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ubiquitous : present everywhere {esp. at the same time}

preclude : to make impossible

aperture : an opening, hole, or gap

aggrandize : to make great



A WORDORY TRILOGY

{1} **BILIOUS** : ill-tempered, cross

I remember when it all began. It was a hot—boy, was it hot—summer day, and my barely visible nine-year-old self blended into the overall dull event. I was pretending to defend a position between home plate and right field. Most of the action involved the pitcher and catcher, while the rest of the players were inventing ways of denying sweat access to the old eyeballs. In the midst of dreaming of cooler pastimes, something unusual happened—a batter accidentally hit the ball. It seemed to be a powerful swing, and a high fly ball was heading for right field, maybe to the fence. At this point, it became someone else's problem, namely, our right fielder. The only difference between the rest of the players and the spectators was position in space. An odd thing, however, the infield seemed agitated, particularly the pitcher. A glance at the right fielder revealed the disengaged demeanor of a statue. What's the matter with him? Is he daydreaming? Unfortunately, the power of the blast proved to be only a personal cerebral deception as the laws of motion took their course, and the ball landed ten feet behind me. Oops! A string of verbiage that our age group, sociologically speaking, was not supposed to know, emanated from the direction of the bilious shortstop. One constant is true about shortstops. They hate to lose. For me, agathism engaged since it marked the first truly memorable introduction to the "F" word and my favorite pastime: FAILURE.

verbiage : manner of expressing something in words {sometimes excessive}

agathism : the belief that things eventually lead to good

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{2} **EXPUNGE** : to erase, to strike out
{totally from a surface}

Given this propensity for goof-ups, it became necessary to develop a philosophy of failure in order to bandage the inevitable psychological wounds and to expunge suicidal longings in my diary. The paradigms which evolved might be characterized as follows: “Decision Making for Those Who Have No Choice” or “Beyond Success, Happiness, and Everything Good.” The rules about to be described were developed from powerful logical reasoning and years of experience, mixed in with a little, simple chaos. The first rule is to continue fighting life’s battles by giving in. The idea, actually, is to accelerate the rate of failure. A corollary to this rule is to attempt not to repeat a failure, leaving precision for successes—things that wait to fail on much more expensive scale-up.

propensity : natural tendency

paradigm : body of ideas for viewing reality

corollary : consequence that follows naturally

{3} **DESCRY** : to discern, to catch sight of
{got to work at it} {vision or mind}

After years of stumbling around but careful observation, I descried a second rule, which is to communicate your failures to others rather than relegate them to your buried-memory stash, where they have no opportunity to embarrass. Here’s an example taken from a performance discussion. Manager: “Well, Goofball, what have you done for Win-Win, Quality and Diversity Incorporated these last twelve months?” Goofball: “It’s been a great year! I’ve doubled the number of failures from the previous year. Assistance provided to my colleagues has been immeasurable. Those who don’t expect an idea to work come to me first. Ah, by the way, could I have a raise?” I’ve always found this technique to fail the best.

relegate : to reduce to a less prominent position

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ALACRITY : cheerfulness, a willingness to act

Even the two-hour drive to the downtown courthouse had been painful. Evan's jury summons had not been received with alacrity but rather with a dread—akin to the slow-death experience in a dentist's waiting room. Thank God, this would likely be over by noon. After three hours, Evan wondered if he had received a life sentence to the jury assembly room, which possessed all the amenities of the Gulag. Finally, his name was called, and the bailiff announced, "You are all perspective jurors for a very long civil trial." This revelation of extended civic duty provided high entertainment during the "bias and prejudice" portion of the voir dire. Casting admonitions of perjury aside, quite ordinary citizens were suddenly transformed into a hilarious assortment of neo-Nazis, jaywalkers, sole providers for the elderly, forty-six-year-old college sophomores, and career felons. This fountainhead of public confession consumed the remaining daylight hours. Not to delay the conduct of justice, the judge instructed the perspective jurors to return the next day at 8:00 a.m. promptly.

amenity : pleasantness, usefulness {place or person}

voirdire : preliminary examination of prospective jurors or witnesses

admonition : cautionary counsel or warning



APOCRYPHAL : false, of doubtful authenticity

Michelle had accepted her new assignment with relish—to substantiate the authenticity of an original manuscript, reputed to have been penned by Sir Frances Bacon, which was recently discovered in a British castle's secret chamber. Michelle had long believed Bacon to be the greatest genius who had ever lived and was, probably, the true author of works attributed to the immortal Shakespeare. Although her skeptical boss thought

A PLACE WHERE WORD MEETS STORY

this story was most likely apocryphal and the manuscript could never be proven as Bacon's, Michelle believed otherwise. She deeply felt the influence of the timeless author in everything she read. Sensing the presence of Bacon's spirit and with trembling hands, she removed the manuscript from the sealed glass case and began to read. "CALL ME ISHMAEL."

substantiate : to support with proof or evidence



BLANDISHMENT : flattery, enticement

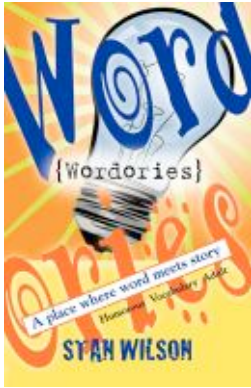
The manager was struggling with a way of convincing an intransigent employee to volunteer for a particularly unsavory assignment—visiting a manure-based fertilizer plant referred to as the armpit of Mississippi. The manager had been manipulating people for years, and he was counting on the use of some form of blandishment. Unfortunately, the employee had to be one of the ugliest people ever to scare the hell out of an unsuspecting visitor. His only passable physical attribute was a reasonably straight set of very white teeth, probably the result of gargling with bleach. The manager was running short of time and had to begin his pitch. "Hector, an opportunity for your personal expansion has presented itself. You know, you sure got a pretty mouth."

intransigent : uncompromising



CALUMNIATE : to slander, to accuse falsely

Senator Howood I. Cutyourcockoff had to win at any cost. In this election, he was conducting a particularly filthy smear campaign because his opponent showed the indecency of having new ideas to solve the country's problems. Didn't he realize that politics was about flushing the needs of malleable voters in order to amass an obscene mound of cash, just to finance future rip-offs? Cutyourcockoff's staff was busily



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