Language

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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol1/iss2/22
Greetings Fellow Truth Seeker.

It has come to my attention that the English language has transgressed beyond the bounds of understanding. The tragic effects of losing this communication tool — among thinking men — are unclear, but it is clear that its perversion must cease or the language must be terminated.

It may seem a ludicrous attempt to explain the perversion with the perversion, but this is done in order to demonstrate the full extent of the languages abuse. The salutation above was written without the aid of a dictionary. (All other key words were found in THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.)

The words used within the salutation were derived from my own understanding. Here is, in effect, what I said to you:

Greetings (greet'ings), n., 1. The act or words of one who greets. 2. A friendly message from someone who is absent; To bring a greeting from a friend in another country. 3. greetings, an expression of friendly or respectful regard; “Send greetings from me to all your family.” “On the glass was etched, “Greetings from Long Branch New Jersey.”

fellow (fel'o), n. a man or boy; “A fine, old fellow; a nice, little fellow.” 2. INFORMAL. beau; suitor; “Mary had her fellow over to meet her folks.” 3. INFORMAL, person; one; “They don’t treat a fellow very nice around here.” 4. A person of small worth or no esteem. 5. a companion; “The doctor conferred with his fellows.” “They have been fellows since childhood.” 6. one of a pair; mate; match; “a shoe without his fellow.” 7. a graduate is granted for special study. b. Brit, an incorporated member of a college, entitled to certain privileges. c. a member of the corporation or board of trustees of certain universities or colleges. 8. - a member of any of certain learned societies; “A fellow of the British Academy.” 9. Obs. a partner. b. any man or boy. c. to represent as an equal. 10. ARCHAIAC. to produce a fellow to match — adj. 12. belonging to the same class or group; the same condition; “Fellow sufferers” “Fellow students.”

truth (trooth), n., 1. true or actual state of a matter; “He tried to find out the truth of a matter.” 2. conformity with fact or reality; verity; “The able fact, proposition, or principle; Mathematical truths.” 3. a state or character of being true. 5. actuality or actual state of character of being true, existence. 6. existence; “The basic truths of life.” 7. agreement with a standard or original; honesty; fact; trueness; latitude. 9. accuracy, as of position or adjustment. 10. ARCHAIAC. fidelity or constancy; truth or reality; in fact actuality; “in truth moral decay hastened the decline of the Roman Empire.”

seeker (seek'er), n. 1. one who or that which seeks. 2. ROCKETY. a. a device in a missile which locates a target by sending some characteristic of the target, as heat emission. b. a missile equipped with such a device.

After reading these definitions I became confused as to what I originally intended to say to you. I believe I meant definitions three, five, six and one, but I could have meant definitions two, four, one and one as well. Or maybe definitions one, three, and two?

Since I have become aware of the problem, I have been trying, in effect, to “clean up my own act” (cliche). Two words I use quite frequently are further examples of my own perversion of the language. The words are “screw you”. Because of the two words apparently change in meaning over the years, I have tried to put “screw you” in perspective by instead saying, “intercourse you”. By using these words (intercourse you) I have given people the impression that I have a dirty mind. It seems they believe that “screw you”, (which means the same thing as intercourse you) is merely a statement of displeasure, whereas “intercourse you” is an admission of a “one track mind” (cliche).

In the light of the perversion’s perversion, I decided to bring up the problem at a board meeting of the Marshalls of the Arts. The Marshalls of the Arts are, if you remember, an organization dedicated to the renovation, restoration and refinement of the Arts. What they do is set up rules and regulations for the populace to follow.

Two weeks ago I brought up the problem at one of their meetings. Since I knew I would have difficulty getting learned men to understand me, I decided to make them famous, I took down everything they discussed. Then with dictionary, thesaurus, and pocket computer in hand, I promptly attempted to explain the meaning: ...