

METAPHOR CONTINUED

Non-violent metaphors

and

Violent where appropriate

Verbal violence

- We often think of verbal violence as yelling 'bad' words, but violence with language starts long before anyone reaches that point, in discourse/syntactic patterns and intonation melodies that cause people to feel left out, diminished, rejected, insulted, defensive, and all the other anger-making emotions that destroy health and well-being. Mostly, we do not intellectually recognize these patterns as violence, though our bodies and emotions certainly do.

Generative Metaphor

- **Academics like to argue**
- **primary metaphor -- combat**
 - one person said
 - If there is no competition then
 - how do we get accomplishment?"

Our Identity

- Using war as a generative metaphor makes warriors of us all;
 - some of us would rather be, gardeners, cooks, weavers, etc.;
 - with these war metaphors we are always and everywhere warriors.
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- Violence co-opts everything else.
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- And violence recreates itself -- 'fight again another day'
 - we mean what we say at some level

Our Goal

- We need to use the new metaphors until they are as vivid as the war ones.
- As it stands now, whenever anything is important, whether good or bad, we metaphorize it as violence, precisely because it is important.
- e.g.: smashing hit on Broadway; a pretty woman on prom night is 'knock out'; we succeed in 'conquering' -- anything; even getting an education, finding a spouse, etc.

Alternate metaphor #1

- I had to give a presentation this week. These things usually make me very nervous because of the implied competition with the other students. This time I decided to look at it in a different way. I decided to see it as a chance to restore the balance of the class by making sure everyone in the class had access to the knowledge I had an expertise in. This way it became a sharing, cooperative event instead of a competitive one. This view really reduced the anxiety level and I noticed a change in the class. Instead of trying to show off by pointing out my shortcomings they really were very supportive and asked serious questions because they wanted to learn.

Alternate metaphor #2

- It was so easy to convince them,
 - that it was like leading the lambs to slaughter. >
- It was so easy to convince them,
 - that it was like chewing soup.

Alternate metaphor #3

- To beat a dead horse
- To blow up a popped balloon

From you #1

- I find myself saying "That woman should be beat in the face" a lot. I know that's the most horrible thing to say, but I only catch myself after its already left my lips. I don't know if its a metaphor... but I mean it to mean "someone should knock some sense into her" which IS a violent metaphor but I don't use this particular one.
- Jimenez

From you #2

- On 60 minutes yesterday, an interview with Tiger Woods.
- Interviewer: You said you always had this strong drive to win, can you explain it?
- Woods (laugh): Yeah, let's say if we play a chess game now, I'd like to kick your butt.
- Interviewer: So you want to win, whatever game it is.
- Woods (laugh): No, I don't want to win, I want to "kick your butt."
- Huang

From you #3

- Kill with kindness.
- Clark

metaphor that hides violence

- clean bombs = clean language = destructive power
but w/o emotional fallout
- 'clean' bombs = mass murder, mangled bodies &
unspeakable human suffering
- (less radioactivity = otherwise killing people is not
'dirty')
 - surgically clean strikes

war as sex

- penetration aids
- irresistible, because you get more bang for the buck
- to disarm is to get rid of all your stuff = emasculation

war as male birth

- ‘Congratulations to the new parents. Can hardly wait to see the new arrival.’
(1942)
- from Feynman, telegram received:
- “The baby is expected on such and such a day.”
- Hiroshima bomb = little boy
- Nagasaki bomb = fat man
- early tests = if the baby was a boy = good / if the baby was a girl = dud
- Stimson to Churchill on first atomic bombs: Babies satisfactorily born

Power words absorbing agency

- should
 - must
 - make
 - let
 - ought
- permit
- allow

- Individuals **should** be encouraged to realize their own creative talents and desires.
- The planet earth **must** be considered a single ecosystem.
- If unable, then society **should** provide means to satisfy their basic needs.

Plus negatives

- While we do **not** approve of **exploitative, denigrating** forms of sexual expression, **neither** do we wish to **prohibit**,
- by law or social sanction, sexual behavior
- between consenting adults

Pacifist

- Being a pacifist is *not* passive.
- Being a pacifist
- requires a high level
 - of commitment
 - to activism.