

Issues

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English is a living language. It's changing, growing, moving all the time. With usage the meanings we give words can morph into different meanings over time. Some words can, and sometimes do, take on the opposite of their original meaning. Yes, I'm sure it would be helpful to give you some examples at this point. The truth is none come to mind at the moment and it's much better for you to think of a few of them yourself. There's nothing like a little interaction to get this Work out of the Intellectual and into the Moving and Emotional Centers. Interaction is no panacea, but if you're really interested in creating the force of understanding in yourself, it can be a good tool. Like any good tool it has to be used to be effective. Most tools spend their lives hanging on the wall or tucked away in a toolbox somewhere. Add to that the improper use of the mind and there's a good argument for not giving you examples of words that have come to mean their opposite.

The word that interests me now is issue. In our modern language it is *an important topic or problem for debate or discussion*. Popular English in America defines issues as *personal problems or difficulties*. The dictionary gave this example: *A nice guy with a great sense of humor and not too*

many issues. A real catch I suppose for some *lucky* girl. Since they'll both be asleep they'll never discover there's no such thing as a real catch. The meaning of life will only be found when we start to think of ourselves as the subject of work, to become a real catch rather than find one. This will not happen automatically because life has no interest in us working on ourselves to become something else. We serve life's purposes as we are and it is in life's best interest to keep us the way we are. It's why events change while people remain the same. Those changing events act as kind of hypnosis wheel, as seen on TV, to keep us dazed and occupied with issues that have no relevance to our internal development. We don't send our cows to school and neither does life.

As I was thinking about people and their *issues*, I thought about the other meanings of the word. The origin is Middle English (in the sense [outflowing]): from Old French, based on Latin ***exitus***, past participle of ***exire*** 'go out.' Right. So what does all this mean to the James? It means that our issues, our problems, the things that stick in our lives and stick us to life events, are all *outflowing*. If they are *flowing out* they must be flowing out of something internal. Yes, the easy way to say this is that life is lived from the inside out. Except that we *know* life is not lived from the inside out, but rather from the outside in. We are at the effect of the events

with which life presents us. We are moved by life, directed by the constant and ever changing flow of events that we call life. Of course we imagine that we are not directed by life. Imagination satisfies every center means that if we don't see for ourselves through proper self-observation how life operates us we will remain in the imaginary world of believing that we are directing life. As insane as that may sound, it's easy to believe it's true in our state of waking sleep, and believe it we do. The issues we have are internal issues and that's why they flow out of us and into the world of the five senses. As long as we remain ignorant of our condition we remain imprisoned in the world of imagination where we will live shadow lives until we die like dogs--unaware.