

Four words  
By Dolores Wilber

*Written for the performance Getalong Little Doggie, performed by Michael Stumm, 1998-1999, Links Hall, Chicago, and the Cleveland Performance Festival, Cleveland Public Theater; also produced as a Flash animation, presented widely. 2000. A version of this text was published as Tweet Tweet, visual design of digital video, for White Walls Journal, Spring 2001.*

I think I made up this game. Or I heard about it somewhere. Four words. If you could only have four words, what would they be? For the rest of your life.

*Fuck* seems like an important all purpose can't live without it kind of word. So let's say *fuck* is one. And then maybe you want *want*. *Fuck* and *want*. But that seems so unrewarded, unsatisfied. Implying that you will not get whatever it is that you desire. Maybe *forget* and *remember*: *Fuck forget remember*. But that seems like you would never be here. Now. What about *fuck here now*. Important enough all right. But still limited. *Love*. Should *love* be in there? It doesn't seem to have much meaning in this context. Hallmark. I don't know if I mean that really but... *Fuck love*...seems not right, you know? *Fuck love forget remember*. Scary.

What about *you and me*? *Fuck you and me*. *You and me fuck*. *You fuck and me*. It gets worse. *And fuck you me*. Now that has a ring to it. What about *forget fuck remember me*? Maybe we could do away with the pronouns all together. Or what about *we*? *We fuck remember forget*. Seems like it adds up to zero neutral gazlich. And what do you remember anyway? The taste of glue, obligatory illnesses, the sound of someone crying in the night? Back to start. Back to go. *Go stop*. I'm getting into these opposites. Which may not be effective or maybe I mean useful. Let's see. *Fuck go stop*. Now that has possibilities. *Go* can imply go away or go to. Without any additional unnecessary anything. *Stop* can be followed by *go*. Or *go* by *stop*. So you're out of neutral. *Fuck go*. *Fuck stop*. Now we're getting somewhere. And now the final word. *Now* might be...no. It is implied. May *no*. I guess *stop* can cover *no*. It seems like it should be more out there...like *pink*. A color perhaps yes. But for the rest of your life one color. I don't think so. Maybe just a sound. *Grrrrrrr*. *Psssssst*. *Boom*. *Urp*. *Eek*. *Fuck go stop eek*. It has a bit of the hysterical in it. But it does have personality. It takes shape.

We might consider dropping *fuck*. I can't commit to that just yet but *go stop eek* with something else could work too. *Tomahawk* has a cool sound to it. *Go tomahawk stop eek*. Some weirdo cowboys and Indians watchamacallit movie. I don't think so. Ixnae on the *tomahawk*. What about *tweet* instead of *eek*. *Go stop tweet*. I like that. *Tweet* has sweet in it. It's kind of like *fuck* but without the barb and it's not as gutted of and loaded with meaning. Meaning is an overrated concept. Maybe *empty* is where we want to...*Go tweet stop empty*. Um. No. Okay. *Go tweet stop*. What about a high falutin' word like *abide*? *Go abide stop tweet*. I like that. *Stop abide go tweet*. *Abide tweet go stop*.

Maybe the opposites need to die right there. Because not saying the go implies *stop*, right? If you don't say *go*, do you mean *stop*?

What if we wander into the *stay leave* pair...what do we get? Personal, we get personal is what we get. I don't know if we want that. No way. I mean if you only have four words you can't depend on them you can't require that they suit personal situations, they have to be of use in all sorts of situations and you couldn't be expected to have the kind of conversations that you get into using words like *stay* or *leave* after all. Of course there's never enough of anything. People would just have to accept that fact. No one could expect that of us. I mean this is really about me you know or about you if you're the one choosing your four words. It's not about you when it's about me. We have already established that you and me is unnecessary. We dropped the pronouns already. Me is implied. And we're dealing with the limitations here. Life has limitations and we have to accept that fact. We have to be realistic and of course we want to do the right thing, we want to make the right choices.

I mean, you feel that you've lived a good life so far, right? We have already established that we only have four words. We don't need you or me. I mean think about it. Who and what is important. Think about, say, well, there's Larry, Curly and Moe. And me, or you, if you're the one. There's Jesus, Mary and Joseph and me. Scotty, Michael and Dennis. And me. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Oh dear. Maybe *holy* should be one of the words. *Holy tweet*. Not bad. At least we're out of all of those verbs. I mean like *go and stop and leave and stay and fuck* are all these things you say to make a person do something. They're not about you really or I mean me. They're about what I want you to do I guess. But they're not about me.

I suppose *sorry* is something that might be useful. I might need that. I certainly have up till now used it a lot. Sorry sorry sorry sorry. Maybe I need that for all four words. Or I could resolve to never doing anything that requires that I need to say sorry. Again. I could try that. Besides who needs to hear sorry again. *Holy tweet sorry*, is a sorry-ass selection anyway. And *forgive me* would be half my words for the rest of my life. *Holy tweet forgive me*.

Oh this is making me sad. Sad. Maybe sad should be in there. I don't want to feel sad. I want to do this right. How could I reassure you? Maybe *tweet* could work for that. *Tweet. Tweet. Tweet.*

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