

[TAPE RESUMES THERE ARE SOUNDS OF SOMEONE TUNING A GUITAR AND VOICES OFF\_MIKE]

Voice One: I heard you playing this morning. You sound like you had lessons somewhere.

Voice Two: No, never in one place long enough. Not enough room in my fardel for a guitar. I just play whenever someone is nice enough to let me touch their instrument.

Voice One: A fardel – is that your backpack?

Voice Two: Yep, but I like the sound of “fardel” much more, and even though it means the same thing, nobody looks up when you say “backpack.” Although sometimes you can get a rise with “rucksack.”

Voice One: Is that something you spend time at, thinking of words?

Voice Two: Oh, you bet. I hardly ever think of anything else. The words are a lot of fun in themselves, but what I really think about most is what a word or phrase will cause to happen in a listener’s mind.

Maybe I’ll be telling a story about some family, and instead of “couch” or “sofa,” I’ll say “Davenport.” Makes them sound richer, maybe a little more stuffy, doesn’t it?

Voice One: I bet I’ve heard you talk at least a couple of dozen times and never noticed anything odd about how you said things.

Voice Two: Nicest thing anybody has said to me all day.”

Voice One: Really. Hmm. I don’t know if I was trying to be nice; I was kind of thinking all that work on words wasn’t paying off as far as I hear.

Voice Two: That reminds me of a story. A young man is sitting on the porch of his rent house when the parson strolls along. The parson looks at the tall grass in the yard, and at the young man tilted back in his chair, and says, “Anthony, your lawn is deplorable. Why haven’t you mowed it? And the youth says, “That would be a sin, Padre. God made grass so it grows every day; who am I to interfere with divine design?” The parson decides to deliver a small lesson to the boy. “Anthony, you go regularly to places like Maisey’s to meet girls, don’t you.” “Every weekend, Padre.” “Well let’s imagine you walk in one night and there are two girls there, both probably look just alike, only this night one is wearing lipstick and mascara, but the other has just her scrubbed face. Which of these two women are you going to be most attracted to?” Anthony says “Ah, that’s easy. The one who’s already paid for her beer.”

Voice One: I don’t understand that.

Voice Two: You’re welcome.