

THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY

(Illustrated)

Written by Ambrose Bierce

Illustrated by V. Subhash

*Judgemental?
That word is not in my
dictionary!*



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Written by

Ambrose Bierce

Illustrated and designed by

V. Subhash.

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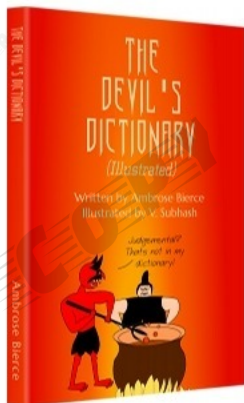
This illustrated 2020 version by V. Subhash is a near-unabridged reproduction of the (non-illustrated) original text that was written by Ambrose Bierce and published in 1911. The text extract created Project Gutenberg

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was the source material for this 2020 version. More details are available in the *About This Book* section.

Fonts

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About This Book

I first read about Ambrose Bierce and his "devil's dictionary" in the *Young World* Saturday supplement of *The Hind* newspaper. That was back when I was in school. More than a decade ago, I came across an all-text version of the dictionary on the Internet. To make it more usable, I compiled it into a PDF ebook. In 2020, after I started publishing books as a real author, I decided to illustrate the book.

The Devil's Dictionary is a great repository of brutally frank and unusually cynical descriptions for popular words and phrases in English. Do not be surprised if you are already familiar with some of them. Even in his time, his work was liberally copied by others.

During the American Civil War, Bierce was a Union cartographer and officer. After the war, he became a newspaper editor in California and established a reputation as a great writer and a sharp critic. Ambrose Bierce was a writer of supernatural stories in the tradition of Edgar Allan Poe. His stories were published in two volumes: *Tales of Soldiers and Civilians* (1892) and *Can Such Things Be?* (1893). The last we know of him was when he traveled to strife-torn Mexico in 1913.

The Devil's Dictionary remains his most famous work. This illustrated 2020 version by me:

- ◆ uses the original text by Bierce in its unabridged form
 - ◆ including the errors and foreign-language text from the printed version
 - ◆ excluding instances of '[sic]' (but marked in grayscale) and some errors found in the Project Gutenberg extract
 - ◆ excluding three words of Islamic faith (strictly for health reasons)
 - ◆ reordering of two out-of-order words (*reach* and *reading*)
- ◆ is illustrated with caricatures of the current climate of political correctness, mainstream media fake news, intolerance of contrarian views, promotion of Socialism/Communism and other divide-and-rule tactics that play into the hands of the globalist kleptocracy
- ◆ has the neat easy-on-the-eye look of any new dictionary
 - ◆ modern fonts
 - ◆ two-column pages
 - ◆ starting and ending words in the header and footer of each page

A note to students: Most of the names attributed to quotations and written works in the dictionary are not real.

V.S.

A (Abasement – Abracadabra)

ABASEMENT, n. A decent and customary mental attitude in the presence of wealth or power. Peculiarly appropriate in an employee when addressing an employer.

ABATIS, n. Rubbish in front of a fort, to prevent the rubbish outside from molesting the rubbish inside.

ABDICATION, n. An act whereby a sovereign attests his sense of the high temperature of the throne.

Poor Isabelle's Dead, whose abdication
Set all tongues wagging in the Spanish nation.
For that performance 'twere unfair to scold her:
She wisely left a throne too hot to hold her.
To History she'll be no royal riddle—
Merely a plain perched pea that jumped the
griddle. G.J.

ABDOMEN, n. The temple of the god Stomach, in whose worship, with sacrificial rights, all true men engage. From women this ancient faith commands but a stammering assent. They sometimes minister at the altar in a half-hearted and ineffective way, but true reverence for the one deity that men really adore they know not. If woman had a free hand in the world's marketing the race would become gaminivorous.

ABILITY, n. The natural equipment to accomplish some small part of the meaner ambitions distinguishing able men from dead ones. In the last analysis ability is commonly found to consist mainly in a high degree of solemnity. Perhaps, however, this impressive quality is rightly appraised; it is no easy task to be solemn.

ABNORMAL, adj. Not conforming to standard. In matters of thought and conduct, to be independent is to be abnormal, to be abnormal is to be detested. Wherefore the lexicographer adviseth a striving toward the straiter resemblance of the Average Man than he hath to himself.

Whoso attaineth thereto shall have peace, the prospect of death and the hope of Hell.

ABORIGINIES, n. Persons of little worth found cumbering the soil of a newly discovered country. They soon cease to cumber; they fertilize.

ABRACADABRA.

By *Abracadabra* we signify

An infinite number of things.

'Tis the answer to What? and How? and Why?
And Whence? and Whither?—a word whereby
The Truth (with the comfort it brings)
Is open to all who grope in night,
Crying for Wisdom's holy light.

Whether the word is a verb or a noun
Is knowledge beyond my reach.
I only know that 'tis handed down.

From sage to sage,

From age to age—

An immortal part of speech!

Of an ancient man the tale is told
That he lived to be ten centuries old,
In a cave on a mountain side.
(True, he finally died.)

The fame of his wisdom filled the land,
For his head was bald, and you'll understand
His beard was long and white
And his eyes uncommonly bright.

Philosophers gathered from far and near
To sit at his feet and hear and hear,
Though he never was heard
To utter a word

But "*Abracadabra, abracadab, Abracada, abracad,*

Abraca, abrac, abra, ab!"

'Twas all he had,

'Twas all they wanted to hear, and each
Made copious notes of the mystical speech,
Which they published next—
A trickle of text

In a meadow of commentary.

Mighty big books were these,

In number, as leaves of trees;

In learning, remarkable—very!

Tell me, man-baby!
Is it CULTURAL
APPROPRIATION
when a non-White
wears a Western
suit?



B (Bath – Behaviour)

wood without exertion.

BATH, n. A kind of mystic ceremony substituted for religious worship, with what spiritual efficacy has not been determined.

The man who taketh a steam bath
He loseth all the skin he hath,
And, for he's boiled a brilliant red,
Thinketh to cleanliness he's wed,
Forgetting that his lungs he's soiling
With dirty vapors of the boiling.

Richard Gwou

BATTLE, n. A method of untying with the teeth of a political knot that would not yield to the tongue.

BEARD, n. The hair that is commonly cut off by those who justly execrate the absurd Chinese custom of shaving the head.

BEAUTY, n. The power by which a woman charms a lover and terrifies a husband.

BEFRIEND, v.t. To make an ingrate.

BEG, v. To ask for something with an earnestness proportioned to the belief that it will not be given.

Who is that, father?

A mendicant, child,
Haggard, morose, and unaffable—wild!
See how he glares through the bars of his cell!
With Citizen Mendicant all is not well.

Why did they put him there, father?

Because
Obeying his belly he struck at the laws.

His belly?

Oh, well, he was starving, my boy—
A state in which, doubtless, there's little of joy.
No bite had he eaten for days, and his cry
Was "Bread!" ever "Bread!"

What's the matter with pie?

With little to wear, he had nothing to sell;
To beg was unlawful—improper as well.

Why didn't he work?

He would even have done that,
But men said: "Get out!" and the State
remarked: "Scat!"
I mention these incidents merely to show
That the vengeance he took was
uncommonly low.
Revenge, at the best, is the act of a Siou,
But for trifles—

Pray what did bad Mendicant do?

Stole two loaves of bread to replenish his
lack
And tuck out the belly that clung to his back.

Is that all father dear?

There's little to tell: They sent him to jail, and
they'll send him to—well,
The company's better than here we can
boast,
And there's—

Bread for the needy, dear father?

Um—toast

Atka Mip

BEGGAR, n. One who has relied on the assistance of his friends.

BEHAVIOR, n. Conduct, as determined, not by principle, but by breeding. The word seems to be somewhat loosely used in Dr. Jamrach Holobom's translation of the following lines from the *Dies Irae*:

Recordare, Jesu pie,
Quod sum causa tuæ vie.
Ne me perdas illa die.

Pray remember, sacred Savior,
Whose the thoughtless hand that gave your

Not because she
is a woman but
because she is
Kamala!



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