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Words

Joe Denniston
Concordia University - Portland

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Footer Logo

Words

Joe Denniston

Sticks and stones may break your bones,
But words will never hurt them.
That's what Mom said.
She didn't realize that words don't break bones,
They shatter them.

You and I can see sticks and stones coming and brace ourselves.
We cannot be prepared for words.

Stick and stones may break bones,
But words carry much more power.
Words create nations,
Words also destroy people.
Every day people use words to create and destroy.
But fewer and fewer words are used to create
And more and more to destroy.

What happens when words are used to destroy a person?
They aren't physically hurt.
They are whole, right?
No.
They are not whole.

Their bones are shattered, smashed to dust
Their hearts stop beating
Their eyelids fuse shut
But they look fine.

When bones are broken by sticks and stones the wounds are
visible
But wounds caused by words are not visible.
They run much deeper,
Straight to the core of your being.

But after those words have been said, what happens?
I am still standing here.
Because nothing happens
Because I can't do anything.
I was blindsided by those words
Now my bones have turned to dust.
Now my heart has ceased to beat.
Now my eyelids have fused shut.

Mom was wrong,
Words do so much more
They destroy trust.