

When I was nine years old, I had a boomerang. I would throw that boomerang fascinated and amazed as it made a turn to the left and came back to me. Sometimes the curve would be slow and gradual, and sometimes fast and sharp however the boomerang unfailingly returned to me. I was reminded of this memory when I was giving my son some advice. When he turned thirteen, I told him that a man will have two things his entire life; his name and his word and as long as he always kept his word, his name would always be good. I told him that having a good name was more important than having a big house, a nice car, or some high elected office. Giving your word and keeping it is about honor and truth.

I have learned that for some people truth is based on a core set of values and beliefs while for others truth is situational. Truth based on values is usually centered on a religious belief or faith. Now situational truth changes based on the current situation the person faces; if it is expedient to be honest then the person is honest but if honesty will not accomplish their goal then they will shade the truth in order to reach it. Shading the truth is a polite way of saying they are lying. These people have either never seen or have forgotten about the boomerang.

Liars live on a short-term basis never thinking their lies will catch up with them today or tomorrow. Whether it is stealing company property, using the company copier for personal stuff, promising one thing and then doing something else or a host of other things these people are throwing the boomerang. Once thrown, the boomerang will unfailingly, swift and unseen return to the person to deliver its never failing and painful blow. The person is usually surprised that they were caught and will blame others for their bad decisions but never really look in the mirror to see the real cause of their problems. Another way of putting it is they have attempted to avoid the law of cause and effect.

The boomerang is an interesting study in cause and effect; the boomerang's design causes it to fly in a circle and the effect is it returns to the thrower. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. This is a natural law that cannot be changed. Just as cause and effect is, a natural law that cannot change so is honesty and truth. The boomerang always returns either for good or bad and the effect reflects our intentions. While it may take days, weeks, months or years for its return it will come back. For those who shade the truth the effect of the boomerang is devastating for them, their family, and sometimes those who work around them.

Fortunately, the boomerang also plays fair for those who are honest and tell the truth. When a person tells the truth, they throw the boomerang and do not need to fear its return. The rich reward of its effect on those who are honest and truthful enables those people to live a rich and rewarding life. Truth and honesty are the words for success in all aspects of life.

I watch people closely; I listen to what they say and more importantly, I observe their actions since actions speak louder than their words. My son asked me what I thought about people who "...shade the truth." I said lets call "shading the truth" what it really was...lying. I explained that every morning I stare at the man in the mirror who reminds me that I have to be able to look him in the eye and like what I see. While some politicians with their Teleprompters, athletes and their steroids, and executives with their ponsie schemes may fool some people, the man in the mirror is never fooled. They have thrown the boomerang, which is making its turn, it is coming silently, swiftly, unseen, and it will deliver a very painful blow.

My son is now sixteen. We talk a lot about keeping our word no matter what the cost may be since the man in the mirror is watching. Having a good name and keeping your word is about honor and truth. For my son and me a good name is more important then power, prestige, or money. Passing this of code of ethics onto my son is priceless.