


After getting back from Vietnam, I enrolled in college. Planned on being a lawyer. Took some classes to make me **smarter**.

Never did become a lawyer. Whether or not I got any smarter is up for **debate**.


Took a course in literature, where the professor loved to focus on **word choice**.

"Your choice of words is like your choice of **weapons**," he would say. "A single word can drive a man to kill, or to love."

Never thought about it that way before.




For everything we want or need, there are the **words** to get it.




Sometimes, it only takes a **single word**.

FIRE!




The key is to know the **right words** for the desired outcome--to know how to string 'em all together, so that the weapon we wield is the **most effective**.






First thing they teach you in the Marines is that the enemy *is the enemy*, not another human being.



This dehumanizes 'em. Makes it *easier* to kill.


GET THAT



YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT ME?

BANG BANG BANG

Thing about *dehumanizing* someone else is that you can't do it without givin' up some of your *own* humanity in the process.



AM I THE ONE YOU WANT?

BANG

That's the *price* you pay for being able to kill someone.





WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

NAME'S SHAFT.



JOHN SHAFT.