

Preface ~ from *Stone's Throw: Promises of Mere Words*

I like this statement by Czeslow Milosz for what I think it says about words:

“Poetry feeds on the remembrance of our perceptions that are no more, since they belong to a moment in the past.”

Words give our perceptions longevity and endurance. Words give the perception a life of its own and it is not lost in the past or something that floats around in one's memory making brief appearances from time to time. The world one sees and experiences is defined by language. A deeper or greater understanding of the world comes by testing and refining it with more words or better words. Pointing at the same scene or event to another person is not the same as explaining it with words. Without words the world is the child's dark closet of unknowns. Words are an important light for one's life.

Czeslow Milosz, *A Book of Luminous Things: International Anthology of Poetry* (1996), p. 139.