

## **Not Just Empty Words**

By

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Hillary Rodham Clinton can't compete with the rhetorical prowess of Barak Obama. She comes across as academic and bland in comparison. To combat this deficit in her leadership she makes the suggestion that all Obama offers are powerless and ineffectual words. She claims to have substance on her side.

Campaigning is about speeches. It is about whose speeches will motivate the crowds and frame the context of debate in the election. The one who does this the best is the leader. They are not untried and untested; they are leading.

Clinton's inability to frame the debates and wrest the leadership from Obama signals a comparative deficit. He's got what she lacks, and it's not just a silver tongue and bag of words. He's got the power to excite and energize, the very elements that will be necessary to enact what he imagines for his country.

History reveals Clinton to be energetic and indefatigable. She has taken leadership on many issues, not all of them successful. Consider her first attempt at health care reform. What was lacking was not policy but power. Her voice did not resonate and proved ineffective. She lacked the words and failed to summon the power of the people she needed to make it real.

Words are power. Words change things. In the Bible God created the heavens and the earth by divine fiat-the speaking of words. John 1:1 celebrates this with a powerful declaration: "In the beginning was the Word!" Words are the foundations of everything that is!

Politics is all about words. It's about being able to imagine new possibilities and then communicating those possibilities with excitement, power and great moment. Words are the tools of communication. If Clinton is unable to communicate her vision and her ideals with greater effectiveness than Obama then those so called substantial ideas of hers will prove to be hollow.

Obama's gift of rhetoric is an essential part of his leadership. With it he can excite hope and energize the people of a great nation to pursue what is good and right. He can lead them to take up new and greater challenges. He can awaken again that latent idealism that triumphs over adversity. He has a gift that can unite what has been wrongly divided.

Once in power, his will not prove to be mere words, because those words will have started something. They will have overcome the inertia of the past and will have excited the creativity of a nation. Those words are hope. Those words are contagious. And where he is unable to

move, his words will move others, and they will carry on his vision and his dream, because his vision and dream is everybody's dream.

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