

SELECTED PROVERBS,
WISDOMS
AND OLD SAYINGS

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Proverbs, Wisdoms And Old Sayings:

Selected;

African, Native American, American, Arabian,
Bulgarian, Celtic, Chinese, Cuban, Czech, Danish,
Dutch, Egyptian, English, French, Gaelic, German,
Greek, Guatemalan, Haitian, Hebrew, Indian, Irish,
Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Korean, Latin, Malayan,
Mennonite, Mexican, Nicaraguan, Persian, Polish,
Portuguese, Russian, Scottish, Spanish, Swedish, Thai,
Turkish, Welsh, Yiddish;

English Proverbs by Centuries: 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th,
14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th;

Miscellaneous.

Selected

The beginning of wisdom is to call things by
their right names. - Chinese proverb

When you have spoken the word, it reigns over
you. When it is unspoken you reign over it. -
Arabian proverb

Write down the advice of him who loves you,
though you like it not at present. - English
proverb

I will charge thee nothing but the promise that
thee will help the next man thee finds in trouble.

- Mennonite proverb

Every man goes down to his death bearing in his
hands only that which he has given away. -

Persian proverb

African

A camel never sees its own hump.

He who is carried on another's back does not appreciate how far off the town is.

However long the night, the dawn will break.

If you refuse to be made straight when you are green, you will not be made straight when you are dry.

Knowledge is like a garden; if it is not cultivated,
it cannot be harvested.

Wherever man goes to dwell his character goes
with him.

Whatever accomplishment you boast of in the
world, there is someone better than you.

When there is no enemy within, the enemies
outside cannot hurt you.

Do not look where you fell, but where you
slipped.

The young can't teach traditions to the old.
- Yoruba

One does not love if one does not accept from
others.
- Kanuri, Nigeria

It is better to walk than curse the road.

- Wolof, Senegal

We should put out fire while it is still small.

- Kalenjin, Kenya

We should talk while we are still alive.

- Kalenjin, Kenya

Even a friend can not rescue one from old age.

- Kalenjin, Kenya

You can not take away someone's luck.

- Kalenjin, Kenya

The climber of ladders will descend.

- Swahili

The orphan does not rejoice after a heavy
breakfast.

- Cape Coast, Ghana

Do not tell the man carrying you that he stinks.

- Sierra Leone

You suffer from smoke produced by the
firewood you fetched yourself.

- Luhya, Kenya

Instruction in youth is like engraving in stones.

- Berber, North Africa

To be happy in one's home is better than to be a
chief.

- Yoruba, Nigeria

The elephant never gets tired of carrying its
tusks.

- Vai, Liberia

That which is good is never finished.

- Sukuma, Tanzania

To be praised is to be lost.

- Kikuyu, Kenya

The one chased away with a club comes back,
but the one chased away with kihooto [reason]
does not.

- Kikuyu, Kenya

He who refuses to obey cannot command.

- Kikuyu, Kenya

There is no one who became rich because he
broke a holiday, no one became fat because he
broke a fast.

- Ethiopia

Money is sharper than the sword.

- Ashanti tribe

Where the rooster crows there is a village.

- Schambala

American - Native

A brave man dies but once, a coward many
times.

Never criticize a man until you've walked a mile
in his moccasins.

Day and night cannot dwell together.

- Duwamish

They are not dead who live in the hearts they
leave behind.

- Tuscarora

All plants are our brothers and sisters. They talk
to us and if we listen, we can hear them.

- Arapaho

Before eating, always take time to thank the food.

- Arapaho

When we show our respect for other living things, they respond with respect for us.

- Arapaho

If we wonder often, the gift of knowledge will come.

- Arapaho

Most of us do not look as handsome to others as we do to ourselves.

- Assiniboine

Those that lie down with dogs, get up with fleas.

- Blackfoot

We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.

- Dakota

There is nothing as eloquent as a rattlesnakes
tail.

- Navajo

Force, no matter how concealed, begets
resistance.

- Lakota

Our first teacher is our own heart.

- Cheyenne

Everyone who is successful must have dreamed
of something.

- Maricopa

All who have died are equal.

- Comanche

One rain does not make a crop.

- Creole

Man's law changes with his understanding of man. Only the laws of the spirit remain always the same.

- Crow

You already possess everything necessary to
become great.

- Crow

There is no death, only a change of worlds.

- Duwamish

Life is not separate from death. It only looks that
way.

- Blackfoot

You can't wake a person who is pretending to be
asleep.

- Navajo

It is less of a problem to be poor, than to be
dishonest.

- Anishinabe

One finger cannot lift a pebble.

- Hopi

Beware of the man who does not talk, and the
dog that does not bark.

- Cheyenne

All dreams spin out from the same web.

- Hopi

Walk lightly in the spring; Mother Earth is
pregnant.

- Kiowa

When a man moves away from nature his heart
becomes hard.

- Lakota

A man or woman with many children has many
homes.

- Lakota Sioux

Seek wisdom, not knowledge. Knowledge is of
the past, Wisdom is of the future.

- Lumbee

If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault
lies in yourself.

- Minguass

A good chief gives, he does not take.

- Mohawk

Every animal knows more than you do.

- Nez Perce

A starving man will eat with the wolf.

- Oklahoma

A danger foreseen is half-avoided.

- Cheyenne

The coward shoots with shut eyes.

- Oklahoma

It is easy to be brave from a distance.

- Omaha

The bird who has eaten cannot fly with the bird
that is hungry.

- Omaha

Ask questions from you heart and you will be
answered from the heart.

- Omaha

Do not wrong or hate your neighbor for it is not
he that you wrong but yourself.

- Pima

Make my enemy brave and strong, so that if
defeated, I will not be ashamed.

- Plains

Each person is his own judge.

- Shawnee

With all things and in all things, we are relatives.

- Sioux

The one who tells the stories rules the world.

- Hopi

Not every sweet root gives birth to sweet grass.

- Tribe Unknown

It takes a thousand voices to tell a single story.

- Tribe Unknown

Don't let yesterday use up too much of today.

- Cherokee

No river can return to its source, yet all rivers
must have a beginning.

- Tribe Unknown

Listen, or your tongue will make you deaf.

- Tribe Unknown

Man has responsibility, not power.

- Tuscarora

The rain falls on the just and the unjust.

- Hopi

Each bird loves to hear himself sing.

- Arapaho

American

There are three kinds of people; those that make things happen, those that watch things happen and those who don't know what's happening.

A harvest of peace is produced from a seed of contentment.

A clear conscience is a good pillow.

A good son makes a good husband.

A joy that's shared is a joy made double.

A lady is a woman who makes it easy for a man
to be a gentleman.

Advice is least heeded when most needed.

Arrogance is a kingdom without a crown.

Diplomacy is the art of letting someone else have
your way.

Hope is the nurse of misery.

If you don't have a plan for yourself, you'll be a
part of someone else's.

If you take care of your character, your
reputation will take care of itself.

A benevolent man should allow a few faults in himself to keep his friends in countenance.

A mill cannot grind with water that is past.

Beggars can never be bankrupt.

The more sins you confess, the more books you will sell.

Before borrowing money from a friend decide
which you need most.

Always count the cost.

The cemeteries are filled with people who
thought the world couldn't get along without
them.

Never swap horses crossing a stream.

If your time ain't come not even a doctor can kill
you.

If men could see the epitaphs their friends write
they would believe they had gotten into the
wrong grave.

Fooled once shame on you, fooled twice shame
on me.

You must not enthrone ignorance just because
there is much of it.

Maternity is a matter of fact, paternity is a
matter of opinion.

When pleasure interferes with business, give up
business.

After a rich man gets rich, his next ambition is to
get richer.

The secret of life is not to do what you like, but
to like what you do.

Arabian

Examine what is said, not him who speaks.

Make your bargain before beginning to plow.

If begging should unfortunately be thy lot, knock
at the large gates only.

All mankind is divided into three classes: those
that are immovable, those that are movable, and
those that move.

The devil tempts all men, but idle men tempt the
devil.

Throw a lucky man into the sea, and he will
come up with a fish in his mouth.

He who eats alone chokes alone.

Do not tell a friend anything you would conceal
from an enemy.

He who foretells the future lies, even if he tells
the truth.

Lying and stealing are next door neighbors.

He who has health, has hope. And he who has
hope, has everything.

A man profits more by the sight of an idiot than
by the orations of the learned.

Four things come not back. The spoken word,
the sped arrow, the past life, and the neglected
opportunity.

The tree of silence bears the fruit of peace.

The whisper of a pretty girl can be heard further
than the roar of a lion.

When you have spoken the word, it reigns over
you. When it is unspoken you reign over it.

Pardon is the choicest flower of victory.

A wise man's day is worth a fool's life.

Bulgarian

Seize opportunity by the beard, for it is bald
behind.

Celtic

A friend's eye is a good mirror.

Chinese

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It
sings because it has a song.

A book holds a house of gold.

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.

A book tightly shut is but a block of paper.

A fool judges people by the presents they give
him.

Deep doubts, deep wisdom; small doubts, little
wisdom.

Dig the well before you are thirsty.

Do not remove a fly from your friend's forehead
with a hatchet.

Don't open a shop unless you like to smile.

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.

Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a
lifetime.

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he
who does not ask remains a fool forever.

He who strikes the first blow admits he's lost the
argument.

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you
will escape a hundred days of sorrow.

If you don't want anyone to know, don't do it.

Distant water won't quench your immediate
thirst.

Even a hare will bite when it is cornered.

Flowing water never goes bad; our door hubs
never gather termites.

Flies never visit an egg that has no crack.

If a son is uneducated, his dad is to blame.

Kill one to warn a hundred.

Mend the pen only after the sheep are all gone.

No wind, no waves.

Of all the strategems, to know when to quit is the
best.

Once bitten by a snake, he is scared all his life at
the mere sight of a rope.

One cannot refuse to eat just because there is a
chance of being choked.

Shed no tears until seeing the coffin.

Vicious as a tigress can be, she never eats her
own cubs.

Without rice, even the cleverest housewife
cannot cook.

You think you lost your horse? Who knows, he may bring a whole herd back to you someday.

You won't help shoots grow by pulling them up higher.

A bird in your hand is worth more than 100 in the forest.

A great man can bend and stretch.

The soldier who retreats 50 paces jeers at the
one who retreats 100 paces.

Laws control the lesser man. Right conduct
controls the greater one.

Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a
singing bird will come.

The journey is the reward.

If your strength is small, don't carry heavy burdens. If your words are worthless, don't give advice.

Who is not satisfied with himself will grow; who is not sure of his own correctness will learn many things.

Better do a good deed near at home than go far away to burn incense.

I hear and I forget, I see and I remember. I do
and I understand.

Talk doesn't cook rice.

Teachers open the door but you must walk
through it yourself.

The journey of a thousand miles must begin with
a single step.

A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a
man perfected without trials.

Biggest profits mean gravest risks.

The woman who tells her age is either too young
to have anything to lose or too old to have
anything to gain.

Clear conscience never fears midnight knocking.

If you stand straight, do not fear a crooked
shadow.

Do not confine your children to your own
learning, for they were born in another time.

There are two perfectly good men, one dead, and
the other unborn.

One dog barks at something, the rest bark at him.

You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.

I dreamed a thousand new paths. I woke and walked my old one.

Everyone pushes a falling fence.

The great question is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with failure.

Man is the head of the family, woman the neck
that turns the head.

Climb mountains to see lowlands.

If you suspect a man, don't employ him, and if
you employ him, don't suspect him.

A hundred men may make an encampment, but
it takes a woman to make a home.

One never needs their humor as much as when
they argue with a fool.

Insanity is doing the same thing in the same way
and expecting a different outcome.

The palest ink lasts longer than the most
retentive memory.

The beginning of wisdom is to call things by
their right names.

To understand your parents' love you must raise
children yourself.

The tongue can paint what the eye can't see.

One step at a time is good walking.

In the midst of great joy, do not promise anyone
anything. In the midst of great anger, do not
answer anyone's letter.

The greatest conqueror is he who overcomes the enemy without a blow.

With virtue you can't be entirely poor; without virtue you can't really be rich.

Great souls have wills; feeble ones have only wishes.

A single conversation across the table with a wise man is worth a month's study of books.

Beauty is the wisdom of women. Wisdom is the
beauty of men.

A man grows most tired while standing still.

Cuban

A lie runs until it is overtaken by the truth.

A love that can last forever takes but a second to
come about.

Cheese, wine, and a friend must be old to be
good.

Czech

Anger is the only thing to put off until tomorrow.

Do not always expect good to happen, but do not
let evil take you by surprise.

Do not protect yourself by a fence, but rather by
your friends.

The big thieves hang the little ones.

When you go to buy, use your eyes, not your ears.

Danish

Ask advice only of your equals.

Bad is never good until worse happens.

He is most cheated who cheats himself.

He who would leap high must take a long run.

Better to ask twice than to lose your way once.

No man limps because another is hurt.

The road to a friend's house is never long.

The sky is not less blue because the blind man
does not see it.

Wise men do not quarrel with each other.

Dutch

Don't throw away your old shoes until you have
got new ones.

In the courtroom of the conscience, a case is
always in progress.

Our faults irritate us most when we see them in
others.

Promises make debt, and debt makes promises.

Roses fall, but the thorns remain.

One cannot shoe a running horse.

Egyptian

Do not rejoice over what has not yet happened.

English

[Read also English Proverbs by Centuries]

The first faults are theirs that commit them, the
second theirs that permit them.

A hero is a man who is afraid to run away.

A blind man will not thank you for a looking-
glass.

Speak not of my debts unless you mean to pay
them.

He that seeks trouble never misses.

A man is as old as he feels himself to be.

A smooth sea never made a skilled mariner.

Absence sharpens love, presence strengthens it.

Danger and delight grow on one stalk.

Don't fall before you're pushed.

Use soft words and hard arguments.

Write down the advice of him who loves you,
though you like it not at present.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

A stitch in time saves nine.

Justice delayed is justice denied.

Let sleeping dogs lie.

One father is more than a hundred
schoolmasters.

You may poke a man's fire after you've known
him for seven years.

The best throw of the dice is to throw them away.

Education begins a gentleman, conversation
completes him.

If you want to be happy for a year, plant a
garden; If you want to be happy for life, plant a
tree.

The calmest husbands make the stormiest wives.

Many a true word is spoken in jest.

Sometimes you must be cruel to be kind.

Love your neighbor, yet pull not down your
hedge.

The ship that will not obey the helm will have to
obey the rocks.

Some men go through a forest and see no
firewood.

Poverty is not a shame, but the being ashamed of
it is.

A proverb is the child of experience.

Still waters run deep.

To talk without thinking is to shoot without
aiming.

It is an equal failing to trust everybody, and to
trust nobody.

It takes all sorts to make a world.

Where there's a will, there's a way.

Two wrongs do not make a right.

French

Don't cry before you're hurt.

A bad workman blames his tools.

Adversity is the touchstone of friendship.

Goodness is the only investment that never fails.

Wait until it is night before saying that it has
been a fine day.

Love makes time pass; time makes love pass.

When we cannot get what we love, we must love
what is within our reach.

Men count up the faults of those who keep them
waiting.

Nothing is as burdensome as a secret.

One beggar at the door is enough.

The sign of wisdom is a continual cheerfulness.

Life is half spent before one knows what life is.

Write injuries in sand, kindnesses in marble.

A black hen lays a white egg.

A healthy man is a successful man.

A hedge between keeps friendship green.

A wise fox will never rob his neighbours hen
roost.

An old rat is a brave rat.

Appearances are deceiving.

Who spits against the wind, spits in his own face.

Don't bark if you can't bite.

A ragged colt may make a good horse.

In too much discourse, truth is lost.

Who never climbed, never fell.

Every flow has its ebb.

Save a thief from the gallows and he will cut
your throat.

Tell me with whom you go, and I'll tell what you
do.

Only that which is provisional endures.

Gaelic

Repentance won't cure mischief.

There is no greater fraud than a promise not
kept.

Carelessness is worse than a thief.

German

A poor person isn't he who has little, but he who
needs a lot.

Anger without power is folly.

As fast as laws are devised, their evasion is
contrived.

Charity sees the need not the cause.

He who teaches children learns more than they
do.

If you have a good friend, you don't need a
mirror.

It's the whole, not the detail, that matters.

Never give advice unless asked.

Who begins too much accomplishes little.

One does evil enough when one does nothing
good.

Fear makes the wolf bigger than he is.

To advise is not to compel.

The greatest step is out the door.

Take the world as it is, not as it ought to be.

Even the lion has to defend himself against flies.

Mules are always boasting that their ancestors
were horses.

The fatter the flea the leaner the dog.

To change and change for the better are two
different things.

No answer is also an answer.

Envy eats nothing, but its own heart.

Who has never tasted what is bitter does not
know what is sweet.

Fair flowers are not left standing along the
wayside long.

Office without pay makes thieves.

Too much humility is pride.

Towards evening the lazy person begins to get
busy.

A man trying to sell a blind horse always praises
its feet.

Prudent men woo thrifty women.

Buying is cheaper than asking.

Revenge converts a little right into a great wrong.

Speaking comes by nature, silence by
understanding.

Cunning surpasses strength.

He who undertakes to be his own teacher has a
fool for a pupil.

To call war the soil of courage and virtue is like
calling debauchery the soil of love.

The wise person has long ears and a short
tongue.

A country can be judged by the quality of its
proverbs.

Greek

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Eat and drink with your relatives; do business
with strangers.

The heart that loves is always young.

A beard signifies lice, not brains.

Who ceases to be a friend never was one.

Gray hair is a sign of age, not of wisdom.

A truth spoken before its time is dangerous.

Painless poverty is better than embittered
wealth.

Milk the cow, but do not pull off the udder.

Guatemalan

Everyone is the age of their heart.

Haitian

Do not insult the mother alligator until after you
have crossed the river.

Hebrew

A rich man has no need of character.

The court is most merciful when the accused is
most rich.

Opinions founded on prejudice are always
sustained with the greatest violence.

An advantage of poverty, your relatives gain
nothing by your death.

Indian

If you live in the river you should make friends
with the crocodile.

There is nothing noble in being superior to some
other person. The true nobility is in being
superior to your previous self.

No one was ever lost on a straight road.

Irish

A diplomat must always think twice before he
says nothing.

A hair on the head is worth two on the brush.

A kind word never broke anyone's mouth.

A lie travels farther than the truth.

A light heart lives long.

A silent mouth is sweet to hear.

A turkey never voted for an early Christmas.

Better be quarreling than lonesome.

Bricks and mortar make a house, but the
laughter of children makes a home.

Don't break your shin on a stool that is not in
your way.

Even the longest day has its end.

Good luck beats early rising.

If you get a reputation as an early riser, you can
sleep till noon.

It's no use carrying an umbrella if your shoes
are leaking.

The believer is happy, the doubter is wise.

You've got to do your own growing, no matter
how tall your grandfather was.

Necessity knows no law.

Every patient is a doctor after his cure.

You'll never plow a field by turning it over in
your mind.

There are finer fish in the sea than have ever
been caught.

A scholar's ink lasts longer than a martyrs blood.

The Irish forgive their great men when they are
safely buried.

The longest road out is the shortest road home.

Its no use boiling your cabbage twice.

A wild goose never reared a tame gosling.

Its for her own good that the cat purrs.

Show the fatted calf but not the thing that
fattened him.

You must crack the nuts before you can eat the
kernel.

If you put a silk dress on a goat he is a goat still.

What is in the marrow is hard to take out of the
bone.

What will come from the briar but the berry.

A blind man can see his mouth.

A king's son is not nobler than his food.

Watching is a part of good play.

When the apple is ripe, it will fall.

To the fighting man peace is sure.

A small debt makes a man your debtor, a large
one your enemy.

There is hope from the sea, but none from the
grave.

Everyone is wise until he speaks.

Marry a mountain girl and you marry the whole
mountain.

Italian

A wise man cares not for that which he cannot
have.

After the game, the king and pawn go into the
same box.

Better no law than laws not enforced.

By learning to obey, you will know how to
command.

Everyone loves justice in the affairs of another.

Gratitude is the memory of the heart.

He who is not impatient is not in love.

Not everything which is bad comes to hurt us.

Bed is the poor man's opera.

There is no robber worse than a bad book.

Beware of one who has nothing to lose.

The person who lives by hope will die by despair.

Who goes to Rome a beast returns a beast.

Of what does not concern you say nothing good
or bad.

He that flatters you more than you desire either
has deceived you or wishes to deceive.

He gains a great deal who loses a vain hope.

Hope is the last to abandon the unhappy.

The person who lives with cripples will soon
learn to limp.

He who knows little quickly tells it.

The right man comes at the right time.

Misfortune does not always result in harm.

Moderate profits fill the purse.

If the secret sorrows of everyone could be read on their forehead, how many who now cause envy would suddenly become the objects of pity.

At a round table there is no dispute about place.

The best armor is to keep out of range.

Voice of one, voice of none.

The rich never have to seek out their relatives.

He who knows little knows enough if he knows
how to hold his tongue.

A hundred wagon loads of thoughts will not pay
a single ounce of debt.

Of the wealth of the world each has as much as
they take.

Japanese

Art is the illusion of spontaneity.

Fall down seven times, get up eight.

If you believe everything you read, better not to
read.

In a quarrel, the higher voiced person will win.

Never rely on the glory of the morning nor the
smiles of your mother-in-law.

One kind word can warm three winter months.

The reverse side also has a reverse side.

When the character of a man is not clear to you,
look at his friends.

Deceive the rich and powerful if you will, but
don't insult them.

The nail that sticks up will be hammered down.

Who travels for love finds a thousand miles not
longer than one.

If he works for you, you work for him.

Vision without action is a daydream. Action
without vision is a nightmare.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Necessity is the mother of invention.

Where poverty comes in at the door, love flies
out the window.

The eyes say as much as the tongue.

You can't get blood from a stone.

Follow the path of least resistance.

Jewish

A mother understands what a child does not say.

A pessimist, confronted with two bad choices,
chooses both.

As he thinks in his heart, so he is.

Ask about your neighbors, then buy the house.

Don't be sweet, lest you be eaten up; don't be bitter, lest you be spewed out.

First mend yourself, and then mend others.

If God lived on earth, people would break his windows.

If not for fear, sin would be sweet.

Not to have felt pain is not to have been human.

Rejoice not at thine enemy's fall – but don't rush
to pick him up either.

Worries go down better with soup than without.

With money in your pocket you are wise, you
are handsome, and you sing well too.

I felt sorry for myself because I had no shoes —
until I met a man who had no feet.

Locks keep out only the honest.

Don't approach a goat from the front, a horse
from the back, or a fool from any side.

The good fellow to everyone is a good friend to
no one.

No one is as deaf as the man who will not listen.

The man who gives little with a smile gives more
than the man who gives much with a frown.

Korean

If you kick a stone in anger, you'll hurt your own
foot.

Latin

By learning you will teach; by teaching you will
learn.

Never give a child a sword.

A man is not where he lives, but where he loves.

Nothing dries sooner than tears.

Who loves me loves my dog.

Fortune favors the bold, but abandons the timid.

Fashion is more powerful than any tyrant.

Make haste slowly.

Practice is the best master.

Better late than never.

A guilty conscience needs no accuser.

If you can't be good, be careful.

Malayan

Don't think there are no crocodiles because the
water is calm.

Mennonite

I will charge thee nothing but the promise that thee will help the next man thee finds in trouble.

Mexican

Do good and don't worry to whom.

He who divides and shares is left with the best
share.

He who does not venture has no luck.

He who doesn't look ahead remains behind.

Nicaraguan

Eyes that see do not grow old.

Persian

Do not cut down the tree that gives you shade.

Every man goes down to his death bearing in his hands only that which he has given away.

Doubt is the key to knowledge.

He who has been bitten by a snake fears a piece of string.

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool, shun him; He who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is a child, teach him. He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep, wake him. He who knows, and knows that he knows, is wise, follow him.

It is nothing for one to know something unless another knows you know it.

Luck is infatuated with the efficient.

Treat your superior as a father, your equal as a brother, and your inferior as a son.

The drowning man is not troubled by rain.

Polish

A fault confessed is half redressed.

A guest sees more in an hour than the host in a
year.

He is rich enough that wants nothing.

Portuguese

Beware of silent dogs and still waters.

Change yourself, change your fortunes.

Peace with a club in hand is war.

Tell your friend a lie. If he keeps it secret, then
tell him the truth.

Live to live and you will learn to live.

Russian

Don't buy the house; buy the neighborhood.

A mere friend will agree with you, but a real
friend will argue.

Tell me who's your friend and I'll tell you who
you are.

A priest's belly is made up of several sheepskins.

I need not fear my enemies because the most they can do is attack me. I need not fear my friends because the most they can do is betray me. But I have much to fear from people who are indifferent.

All ages are submissive to love.

An argument is fine only when there is to be a fight.

If the pocket is empty, the judge is deaf.

One man in a field is not a warrior.

Peace lasts till the army comes, and the army
lasts till peace comes.

The wise man boasts of his goods and wares; the
foolish one of his young wife.

Smooth hands love the labor of others.

Scottish

A bad wound may heal, but a bad name will kill.

Bees that have honey in their mouths have stings
in their tails.

Better be ill spoken of by one before all than by
all before one.

Charity begins at home, but shouldn't end there.

Children speak in the field what they hear in the
house.

Danger past, God forgotten.

If the doctor cures, the sun sees it; if he kills, the
earth hides it.

False friends are worse than bitter enemies.

Perfect love cannot be without equality.

A thread will tie an honest man better than a
chain a rogue.

Were it not for hope the heart would break.

Where vice is vengeance follows.

We'll never know the worth of water till the well
go dry.

Spanish

Books are hindrances to persisting stupidity.

Drink nothing without seeing it; sign nothing
without reading it.

He who is caught in a lie is not believed when he
tells the truth.

How beautiful it is to do nothing, and then rest
afterward.

If you want to be respected, you must respect
yourself.

Never advise anyone to go to war or to marry.

Under a tattered cloak you will generally find a
good drinker.

Better a friendly refusal than an unwilling
consent.

A wise man changes his mind, a fool never will.

Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you.

A man too busy to take care of his health is like a
mechanic too busy to take care of his tools.

Men can acquire knowledge, but not wisdom.
Some of the greatest fools ever known were
learned men.

Not to watch your workmen is to lose your
money.

What is not yours always chirps for its master.

A poor man is all schemes.

The king goes as far as he may, not as far as he
could.

Life without a friend is death without a witness.

More grows in the garden than the gardener
knows he has sown.

Swedish

Don't throw away the old bucket until you know
whether the new one holds water.

One should go invited to a friend in good fortune,
and uninvited in misfortune.

Those who wish to sing, always find a song.

Fear less, hope more; eat less, chew more; whine
less breathe more; talk less, say more; hate less,
love more; and all good things are yours.

Worry gives a small thing a big shadow.

When a blind man carries a lame man both go
forward.

Thai

At high tide fish eat ants; at low tide ants eat fish.

Turkish

A heart in love with beauty never grows old.

No rose without a thorn, or a love without a rival.

A dog that intends to bite does not bear its teeth.

A worthy man is still worthy even penniless, a donkey is a donkey even if he is finely saddled.

There is an uphill for every downhill, and a
downhill for every uphill.

A nail will come out, but its hole remains.

He who sends a child on an errand must go after
him as well.

In a flat country a hillock thinks itself a
mountain.

A fool dreams of wealth; a wise man, of
happiness.

A man is as wise as his head, not his years.

A wise man remembers his friends at all times; a
fool, only when he has need of them.

Even the highest tree has an axe waiting at its
foot.

For every wise man there is one still wiser.

He bites his tongue who speaks in haste.

If skill could be gained by watching, every dog
would become a butcher.

The sage speaks of what he sees; the fool, of
what he hears.

Whoever digs a pit for his neighbor should dig it
his own size.

Welsh

Be honorable yourself if you wish to associate
with honorable people.

He that would be a leader must be a bridge.

Yiddish

If you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one
at the end of your arm.

Charm is more than beauty.

It's astonishing how important a man becomes
when he dies.

The heart is half a prophet.

If you don't want to do something, one excuse is
as good as another.

All of us are crazy in one way or another.

He who marries for money earns it.

A wise man hears one word and understands
two.

A half truth is a whole lie.

A weak person goes where he is smiled at.

English Proverbs by Centuries

[continues from English Proverbs]

NOTE: Dates given are generally for the first written appearance of the form of the proverb in English; the proverb may have been in spoken use, in England or other countries, much earlier and in some cases referred to as “an old saying” prior to that time.

9th Century..

When the blind lead the blind, both shall fall
into the ditch.

11th Century..

He that will not when he may, when he will he
shall have nay.

12th Century..

You can take a horse to the water, but you can't
make him drink.

13th Century..

Big fish eat little fish.

A burnt child dreads the fire.

Fields have eyes and woods have ears.

If it were not for hope, the heart would break.

It's an ill bird that fouls its own nest.

One nail drives out another.

Opportunity makes a thief.

Out of sight, out of mind.

14th Century..

Ask a silly question and you get a silly answer.

Between two stools one falls to the ground.

Be what you would seem to be.

Everyone stretches his legs according to the
length of his coverlet.

The cowl does not make the monk.

Haste makes waste.

In vain the net is spread in the sight of the bird.

Light come, light go.

Might is right.

The nearer the church, the farther from God.

Never is a long time.

No smoke without fire.

Pride goes before a fall.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

The rotten apple injures its neighbour.

A soft answer turneth away wrath.

Soon ripe, soon rotten.

Strike while the iron is hot.

Thought is free.

While two dogs are fighting for a bone, a third
runs away with it.

15th Century..

As you sow, so you reap.

Empty vessels make the most sound.

Example is better than precept.

Hasty climbers have sudden falls.

Hunger drives the wolf out of the wood.

Ill weeds grow apace.

Little strokes fell great oaks.

No one should be judge in his own cause.

Those who hide can find.

Truth will out.

What's done cannot be undone.

You can only die once.

You cannot catch old birds with chaff.

Young saint, old devil.

16th Century..

The age of miracles is past.

All cats are grey in the dark.

All is fish that comes to the net.

A barking dog never bites.

Bear and forbear.

Better to be an old man's darling than a young
man's slave.

Better to be envied than pitied.

A bleating sheep loses a bite.

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the
Church.

Call no man happy till he dies.

Confess and be hanged.

Desperate diseases must have desperate
remedies.

The devil can quote Scripture for his own ends.

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

Do as I say, not as I do.

A drowning man will clutch at a straw.

Eagles don't catch flies.

The end justifies the means.

Even a worm will turn.

The eyes are the window of the soul.

Faint heart never won fair lady.

The fish always stinks from the head downwards.

Forewarned is forearmed.

He who fights and runs away, may live to fight
another day.

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

Hunger is the best sauce.

If you're born to be hanged then you'll never be
drowned.

If you run after two hares you will catch neither.

If you want a thing done well, do it yourself.

If you want peace, you must prepare for war.

In the country of the blind the one eyed man is
king.

It is a poor dog that's not worth whistling for.

It is a wise child that knows its own father.

It is never too late to mend.

It takes two to make a bargain.

Knowledge is power.

A liar ought to have a good memory.

Like breeds like.

A little pot is soon hot.

Little things please little minds.

Lookers-on see most of the game.

Love me little, love me long.

A man is known by the company he keeps.

Misery loves company.

The more you stir it the worse it stinks.

Necessity is the mother of invention.

Never choose your women or linen by
candlelight.

Never too old to learn.

New lords, new laws.

No pain, no gain.

One cannot love and be wise.

One hand washes the other.

One story is good till another is told.

Other times, other manners.

An ounce of practice is worth a pound of precept.

Pay beforehand was never well served.

The pen is mightier than the sword.

There is an exception to every rule.

There is truth in wine.

Tomorrow never comes.

The tree is known by its fruit.

You cannot shift an old tree without it dying.

The wish is father to the thought.

17th Century..

Appetite comes with eating.

The buyer has need of a hundred eyes, the seller
of but one.

Charity covers a multitude of sins.

The company makes the feast.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Empty sacks will never stand upright.

Every law has its own law.

Everybody's business is nobody's business.

Fine words butter no parsnips.

Fire is a good servant but a bad master.

Fools ask questions that wise men cannot
answer.

Go abroad and you'll hear news from home.

He laughs best who laughs last.

He that complies against his will is of his own
opinion still.

Honesty is the best policy.

An idle brain is the devil's workshop.

If every man would sweep his own door-step the
city would soon be clean.

If you would be well served, serve yourself.

It is a long lane that has no turning.

Keep no more cats than will catch mice.

Keep your shop and your shop will keep you.

Little leaks sink the ship.

Nothing venture, nothing gain.

Offenders never pardon.

Once a whore, always a whore.

Prevention is better than cure.

The sea refuses no river.

Set a thief to catch a thief.

There's no great loss without some gain.

They that dance must pay the fiddler.

Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw
stones.

Whosoever draws his sword against the prince
must throw the scabbard away.

Winter never rots in the sky.

You buy land, you buy stones; you buy meat, you
buy bones.

18th Century..

As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined.

Attack is the best form of defence.

Be just before you're generous.

Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall
never be disappointed.

The eye of a master does more work than both
his hands.

The greater the sinner the greater the saint.

The greater the truth, the greater the libel.

Learning is better than house and land.

No man is a hero to his valet.

19th Century..

Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half
of what you see.

Blue are the hills that are far away.

A bully is always a coward.

The busiest men have the most leisure.

Catching's before hanging.

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link.

Coming events cast their shadow before.

Dogs bark, but the caravan goes on.

Fact is stranger than fiction.

From the sublime to the ridiculous is only one
step.

He that would go to sea for pleasure would go to
hell for a pastime.

He travels fastest who travels alone.

He who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount.

History repeats itself.

Love laughs at locksmiths.

Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you.

Once bitten, twice shy.

One funeral makes many.

One law for the rich and another for the poor.

There is honour among thieves.

There is nothing lost by civility.

A watched pot never boils.

Whatever man has done, man may do.

What the soldier said isn't evidence.

You never know what you can do till you try.

20th Century..

The best things in life are free.

The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

Every dog is allowed one bite.

If you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen.

Old soldiers never die.

Softly, softly, catchee monkey.

The squeaking wheel gets the grease.

There is always room at the top.

To know all is to forgive all.

Travel broadens the mind.

What goes up must come down.

When all you have is a hammer, everything
looks like a nail.

Work expands so as to fill the time available.

You are what you eat.

You can't tell a book by its cover.

You can take the boy out of the country but you
can't take the country out of the boy.

You win a few, you lose a few.

—

Miscellaneous

The best counselors are the dead.

A colt is worth little if it does not break its halter.

Footprints on the sands of time are not made by
sitting down.

A wreck on shore is a beacon at sea.

Better a lean agreement than a fat lawsuit.

Slow help is no help.

Any landing you can walk away from is a good one.

No one is as angry as the person who is wrong.

The wolf changes his coat, but not his disposition.

A wicked book cannot repent.

Caution is the parent of safety.

When a fox preaches, take care of your geese.

The first step toward greatness is to be honest.

Confess you were wrong yesterday; it will show
you are wise today.

Who ever does not respect confidence will never
find happiness in their path.

Conscience is the dog that can't bite, but never
stops barking.

Private reproof is the best grave for private
faults.

All criminals turn preachers under the gallows.

Custom is a tyrant.

First deserve then desire.

Measure three times before you cut once.

It is better to run back than run the wrong way.

Six feet of earth make all men equal.

Don't cross the bridge till you come to it.

What the eye does not admire the heart does not
desire.

The face is the index of the mind.

A scalded cat dreads cold water.

He who fears to suffer, suffers from fear.

Many lick before they bite.

The fool is always beginning to live.

Force without forecast is to little avail.

Those that do you a very ill deed will never
forgive you.

Never perform card tricks for the people you
play poker with.

Gossiping and lying go hand in hand.

The heart that truly loves never forgets.

A misty morning does not signify a cloudy day.

Better to be known as a sinner than a hypocrite.

Live today for tomorrow it will all be history.

Young people talk of what they are doing; old people of what they have done; and fools of what they have a mind to do.

Kind words are worth much and they cost little.

Who knows most believes least.

Fools and obstinate men make lawyers rich.

Where the law is uncertain there is no law.

Sloth is the key to poverty.

Never tell your story to a deaf man.

Follow love and it will flee, flee love and it will follow.

Nothing is more noble than politeness, and nothing more ridiculous than ceremony.

You'll repent if you marry, and repent if you don't.

Masters who sacrifice for servants will receive
the gift of loyalty.

One lives in the world's memory only by what
they have done in the world's behalf.

Time tries truth.

When we can't find peace in ourselves it is vain
to look for it elsewhere.

If you can't get people to listen to you any other way, tell them it's confidential.

Many talk like philosophers yet live like fools.

One hour in the execution of justice is worth seventy years of prayer.

Every convenience brings its own inconveniences along with it.

There are no greater promisers than those who
have nothing to give.

Battle doesn't need a purpose; the battle is its
own purpose.

The burden one likes is cheerfully carried.

The less people think the more they talk.

He who does not research has nothing to teach.

Never offer to teach a fish to swim.

Visits always give pleasure; if not the arrival, the
departure.

By others' faults the wise correct their own.

Between the wish and the thing life lies waiting.

If you love it let it go. If it returns to you cherish
it, if not it was never truly yours.

Truth fears no trial.

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