

Teachings of Paradise



Knowledge of All the
Worlds

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most
Gracious, The Dispenser of
Grace

Dedicated to Imam al-Mahdi

O Allah! O Beneficent! O Merciful! O One who changes the hearts, give me steadfastness upon Your way of life

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ
شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ
أَتْقَاهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ١٣

O mankind! Behold, We have created you all out of a male and a female, and have made you into nations and tribes, so that you might come to know one another. Verily, the noblest of you in the sight of God is the one who is most deeply conscious of Him. Behold, God is All-Knowing, All-Aware.

Surah al-Hujarat : 13

Introduction

Knowledge is a treasure that each nation possesses. And the common link to all ancient cultures is the Creator. With the Creator's intentional design to give us our own languages and ways of life, each tribe has a unique understanding and perspective of life. As a result, it should be no surprise that despite our differences in time, location, or beliefs, common themes and teachings seem to repeatedly surface around the globe. So, if this is no coincidence, what is the deeper implication?

Ultimately, knowledge is the key to understanding the deeper realities of our existence. Who we are, why we are here, our purpose in life, and life after death. By piecing together all the wisdom from cultures around the world, and using each nation's gifts, we are able to gain an insight into ourselves, our world around us, and the workings of our Creator that would otherwise be impossible. In other words, we should embrace our different experiences and expertise to come together to build a better world for all.

For example, in Islam the strength is in character, understanding of death, and relationship with our Creator. Native American's, excel in humility and their connection with our animal and plant relatives. Likewise, Hawai'ians are linked to their land, and have seamlessly integrated their communities inside of nature, while the Chinese have an unmatched discipline. Now, imagine a society that properly draws upon all these attributes, and from all the other civilizations around the world. Imagine the acceleration in learning for our students, where we can use the strengths of each culture to not only maximize their development and mindset, but also tailor an education experience specific to their interests. Imagine the moral and intellectual progress of the planet from our shared global knowledge. Imagine a world where we act as an intelligent species.

Dreams aside, this book is merely an introduction to various nations and the wisdom they possess, as each culture is far more sophisticated than what a few pages can represent. It must also be noted that some sayings may be mistranslated or misattributed – for which I apologize. All praise and thanks belongs to Allah, and all faults are my own.

Index

Islam.....	6
Native America.....	24
Hawai'i.....	30
China.....	36
Indus Valley.....	74
Hellas.....	89
Africa.....	109
Persia.....	116
Tanakh.....	121
New Testament.....	130
Al-Qur'an.....	133

Note

Though the Qur'an is the basis of Islam, it has been separated from the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and the Imams as it is the direct word of the Creator. Only shorter surahs were included as it is a non-linear work, and giving random verses would not provide the complete meaning or affect.

Islam

Ignorance is the worst kind of poverty, intelligence is the greatest of riches, and thought is the best form of worship.

Prophet Muhammad - Nahj al-Fasahah, Tradition 2505



Whoever is kind, God will be kind to him; therefore, be kind to man on earth. He Who is in heaven will then show mercy to you.

Prophet Muhammad - Nahj al-Fasahah, Tradition 1679 and Ithna 'Ashariyyah, p. 14



The God of all people is the same, and the father of all people is the same. All of you are children of Adam and Adam was made from earth. The most honorable of you in God's estimation is the most pious.

Prophet Muhammad - Nahj al-Fasahah, Tradition 1044



Forgive him who wrongs you, re-unite with him who cuts you off, do good to him who does you harm and speak the truth although it may be to your disadvantage.

Prophet Muhammad - Nahj al-Fasahah, Tradition 1842 and Usul al-Kafi, Vol. 2, p. 87



My Lord has advised me to nine features and I advise you to what I have been advised with; sincerity in public and in secret, justice in pleasure and anger, moderation in wealth and indigence, to forgive one who is unjust to me, to give one who deprives me, maintain relationship with one who cuts off relations with me, that silence is to be my reflection, my words to be remembrance, and that my looking is to take lessons.

Prophet Muhammad - Ithna Ashariyyah, p. 315



It is better to sit alone than in the company of bad people and it is even better to sit with good people rather than alone. It is better to speak to a seeker of knowledge than to remain silent; but silence is better than idle words.

Prophet Muhammad - Nahj al-Fasahah, Tradition 3194



“Allah, Mighty and Exalted, said to Prophet David, ‘Love Me and encourage My creatures to love Me.’

He said, ‘My Lord, I do love You, but how can I encourage Your creatures to love You?’

Allah said, “Remind them of My blessing and kindness, for if you remind them of that they will love Me.”

Prophet Muhammad - Qasas al-Anbiya', p. 205, no. 266



Hands are three; the begging hand, the giving hand, and the grasping hand. The best of hands is the giving hand.

Prophet Muhammad - Tuhaf al-Uqul



Just as grapes can never be harvested from thorn bushes, thus can the wrongdoers never come up to the level of the righteous, for they are two distinct paths, whichever one of them you take is where you will arrive.

Prophet Muhammad - Kanz al-Ummal, no. 43676



The most God-consciousness of people is he who speaks the truth, be it for or against him.

Prophet Muhammad - Amali al-Saduq, p. 27, no. 4



The highest level of intelligence other than faith in God is expressing love for the people.

Prophet Muhammad - Mishkat ul-Anwar Fi Ghurar il-Akbbar Section 6, Chapter 2 #1477



Verily, wisdom is the light of every heart.

Prophet Jesus - Bihar al-Anwar, v. 14, p. 317, no. 17



How can one be of the people of knowledge if the next world is shown to him while he remains involved in this world, and what harms him is more desirable to him than what benefits him?

Prophet Jesus - Majmu'a Warram, 1, 83



Prophet Jesus when asked about the traits of the fool said, 'He is one who is proud of himself and his own opinion, who sees all good traits as coming from himself and sees no one better than himself, who has decided that all rights are his and others have no right over him, so this is the fool for whom there is no cure for his disease.'

Prophet Jesus - al-Ikhtisas, p. 221



Wisdom is a tree that grows in the heart and produces fruit on the tongue.

Imam Ali - Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1992



The most intelligent of people is he who looks further into the consequences.

Imam Ali - Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 3367



But now, indeed man grieves for having missed that which he would not have attained anyway, and is overjoyed at attaining that which he would not have missed anyway. So, let your happiness be for what you attain for your Hereafter, and let your regret be for what you miss of it. Do not be happy for what you attain for this world, nor regret sorrowfully what you miss from it, and let your concern be for what comes after death, and peace be with you.

Imam Ali - Matalib al-Sa'ul, p. 55



The body experiences six different states: health, sickness, death, life, sleep and wakefulness, and so does the spirit. Its life is its knowledge and its death ignorance; its sickness is doubt whereas its health is certainty; its sleep is its negligence and its wakefulness is its consciousness.

Imam Ali - Bihar al-Anwar, v. 61, p. 40, no. 10



...Put off your vanity and drop down your haughtiness and recall your grave because your way passes over it. You will be dealt with as you deal with others, you will reap what you sow, and what you send today will meet you tomorrow. So do provide for your future and send good acts for your day of reckoning...

Imam Ali – Nahjul Balagha Sermon 151



If you are not of the clement ones then feign clemency for verily few people who imitate a group fail to become one of them.

Imam Ali - Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 207



There is no good in silence over matters involving wisdom, just as there is no good in speaking with ignorance.

Imam Ali – Nahjul Balagha Saying 463



The intellect is a sharp sword. Use it to fight with your selfish desires.

Imam Ali - Mishkat ul-Anwar Fi Ghurar il-Akbbar Section 6, Chapter 2 #1476



From among [the matters of] wisdom is to avoid dispute with one who is above you, to not disesteem anyone other than yourself, to not undertake a task which is outside of your capability, to not have your tongue contradict your heart and neither your word [contradict] your action to not speak of that which you do not know, and to not abandon a matter as it approaches only to pursue it as it retreats.

Imam Ali - Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 9450



Truly if you do good, then it is your own soul that you honor and do good to, but if you do wrong, it is your own soul that you degrade and wrong.

Imam Ali - Gburar al-Hikam, no. 3808



Indeed your good-doing to the enemies and the jealous ones who scheme against you is more irritating to them than your taking an offensive stance against them, and it is also a motivation for their reform.

Imam Ali - Gburar al-Hikam, no. 3637



Truly the truth is heavy but wholesome, whereas falsehood is light but plagued.

Imam Ali - Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 376



When you fear a matter, dive straight into it for verily the intensity of your wariness of it is greater than what you actually fear.

Imam Ali - Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 175



Absolute goodness that is untainted with evil is being thankful for bounties and having patience in calamity.

Imam Hassan - Tuhaf al-Uqul



For him who is rendered helpless in making a decision and who is at a loss of what to do, moderation is the key.

Imam Husayn - Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 128, no. 1



O son of Adam! You will continue to thrive as long as you are the admonisher of your self, and as long as accounting for yourself is one of your concerns.

Imam Zayn al-'Abideen – Tuhaf al-Uqul



Beware of procrastination for verily it is the sea in which losers drown.

Imam Baqir - Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 164, no. 1



The flavor of water is life.

Imam Sadiq - Tuhaf al-'Uqul, no. 370



The following ten characteristics are due to nobility. Try to attain them if you can. They may exist in a father, but not exist in his son. They may exist in a son but not exist in his father. They may exist in a slave, but not in a free person. They are: courage in a battle; honesty in speech; returning what you are entrusted with; visiting the relations of kin; entertaining the guests; feeding the beggars; returning favors; respecting and being kind to neighbors; respecting and being kind to friends; and above all being modest.

Imam Sadiq - al-Khisal 10-11



There is no choice for the son of Adam but to eat to remain alive. Therefore, when you eat, devote one third of your stomach to food, another third to water and the last third to air. Do not be fat as pigs are fattened for slaughtering.

Imam Sadiq - Wasa'il al-Shiah, vol. 16, p. 497



It is not so that you can do whatever you decide to do, or be successful in doing whatever you have the power to do, or to do right in whatever you are successful in doing. Whenever intention, power, success and the right outcome are all gathered together, then you have attained perfect prosperity.

Imam Sadiq - Kitab al-Irshad



...This is the human being who was created from matters of this world and matters of the world to come. If God combines these matters, man's life will be on the surface of the earth, because he descended from the matters of the heavens to the world. When God disconnects these matters by means of death, the matters of the heavens go back to their source; the heavens. The life is on the earth and death is in the heavens by means of separating the soul from the body...

Imam Sadiq - Tuhaf al-Uqul



The proper way to maintain a state of coexistence and mutual intimacy with people is according to a set measure, two thirds of which are to know each other very well and a third of which is to feign ignorance of each other's faults

Imam Sadiq - Tuhaf al-Uqul



The open-handed cannot be considered open-handed unless he has three [attributes]: he is generous with his wealth both in times of ease as well as hardship, bestows it on the deserving, and finds the gratitude of the one he gave to greater than what he gave him

Imam Sadiq - Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 231, no. 27



Verily the man of intellect never talks to one whom he fears will belie him, nor asks of one whom he fears will deny him, nor

promises that which he is not able to fulfil, nor hopes for that which will dash his hopes, nor attempts to advance towards that which he fears he will be incapable of reaching.

Imam Kazim - Tuhaf al-Uqul



All of people place the blame on time
When the trouble with time is only ourselves;
We reprove time while the fault lies within us
If time could speak, it would surely mock us.

The wolf shuns the meat of a fellow wolf
Whereas we devour each other in broad daylight.
Attired to deceive with our polished teeth,
Yet woe betide the stranger when he approaches us.

Imam Rida - Uyun Akhbhar ar-Ridha, v. 2, p. 177, no. 5



Life reveals the hidden secrets to you, [as it goes by].

Imam Jawad - al-Shaykh al-Mufid, Al-Amali



Unexpected incidents and calamities will devour the one who lacks foresight.

Imam Jawad - Bihar al-anwar, vol.68, p.340



(The powerful and oppressor kings) spent the nights on top of mountains while powerful men were protecting them, but being at the top could not save them from death.

After being dear for a long time, they were taken down from their safe places and were placed in the holes (tombs). What an unkind residence!

When they were placed in the ground, someone shouted, “Where are those bracelets and crowns and costly cloth?

Where are those delicately brought up faces which curtains were hung to their respect (they had palaces and doorkeepers)?”

Their tombs answer instead of them, “Now, the worms are fighting with each other for eating them!

They ate and drank a long time; but now, they are being eaten by worms and insects.

What houses they made to keep them from dangers! But after a while, they left those houses and hurried to their tombs!

What properties they stored! But they left all of them for their enemies!

Their palaces and houses were ruined and their settlers hurried to their dark tombs!”

Imam Hadi - Bihar al-Anwar, Vol. 50, P. 211



Worship is not abundant fasting and praying, but worship is abundant pondering; it is the continuous thinking of Allah.

Imam 'Askari - Bihar al-Anwar, vol.78, p.373



Luqman told his son, “O my son! Sit close to the scholars and associate with them since God revives the hearts with the light of wisdom, just as He revives the Earth with water.”

Luqman - Mishkat ul-Anwar Fi Ghurar il-Akbbar Section 6, Chapter 3 #1514



Luqman told his son, “My son! Do not ever scorn anybody because of his ragged clothes, for verily your Lord and his Lord is the same One.”

Luqman - Bihar al-Anwar, v. 72, p. 47, no. 57



Roots of Foresight

Foresight is when you finish your day and reach nightfall only when your God is satisfied from you

And at the place of chaos and distress, you choose the right path because the right path is the best choice

Keep yourself away from those words and deeds that may mislead and destroy you and prolong your sorrows and take you closer to the burning heat of hell

Put the sleep away from your eyes in the dark nights and take the spiritual fruit of your prayers from

Allah. Oblivious (unmindful of hereafter) people are just like the animals of pasturage

Imam Husayn - Adab al-Husayn wal Hamasah, p. 50



Praise be to Allah who is well-known without being seen, Who creates without pondering over, Who has ever been existent when there was no sky with domes, nor curtains with lofty doors, nor gloomy night, nor peaceful ocean, nor mountains with broad pathways, nor curved mountain roads, nor earth of spread floors, nor self-reliant creatures. He is the Originator of creation and their Master. He is the God of the creation and its feeder. The sun and the moon are steadily moving in pursuit of His will. They make every fresh thing old and every distant thing near.

He distributed their sustenance and has counted their deeds and acts, the number of their breaths, their concealed looks, and whatever is hidden in their bosoms. He knows their places of stay and places of last resort in the loins and wombs till they reach their end.

His punishment on enemies is harsh despite the extent of His Mercy, and His compassion on His friends is vast despite His harsh punishment. He overpowers one who wants to overcome Him, and destroys one who clashes with Him. He disgraces one who opposes Him and gains sway over one who bears Him hostility. He is sufficient for one who relies on Him. He gives one who asks Him. He repays one who lends to Him. He rewards one who thanks Him.

O creatures of Allah, weigh yourselves before you are weighed and assess yourselves before you are assessed. Breathe before suffocation of the throat. Be submissive before you are harshly driven. Know that if one does not help himself in acting as his own adviser and warner then no one else can (effectively) be his adviser or warner.

Imam Ali – Nahjul Balagha Sermon 88



We praise Allah for what has happened and seek His succor in our affairs for what is yet to happen, and we beg Him for safety in the faith just as we beg Him for safety in our bodies.

O creatures of Allah! I advise you to keep away from this world which is (shortly) to leave you even though you do not like its departure, and which would make your bodies old even though you would like to keep them fresh. Your example and its example is like the travelers who travel some distance and then as though they traverse it quickly, or they aimed at a sign and reached it at once. How short is the distance to the aim if one heads towards it and reaches it. And how short is the stage of one who has only a day which he cannot exceed while a swift driver is driving him in this world till he departs from it.

So do not chase after worldly honor and its pride, and do not feel happy over its beauties and bounties nor wail over its damages and misfortunes because its honor and pride will end while its beauty and bounty will perish, and its damages and misfortunes will pass away. Every period in it has an end and every living being in it is to die. Is not there for you a warning in the relics of the predecessors and an eye opener and lesson in your fore-fathers, provided you understand?

Do you not see that your predecessors do not come back and the surviving followers do not remain? Do you not observe that the people of the world pass mornings and evenings in different conditions? Thus, (somewhere) the dead is wept for, someone is being consoled, someone is prostrate in distress, someone is inquiring about the sick, someone is passing his last breath, someone is chasing after the world while death is looking for him, someone is forgetful but he is not forgotten (by death), and on the footsteps of the predecessors walk the survivors.

Beware! At the time of committing evil deeds remember the destroyer of joys, the spoiler of pleasures, and the killer of desires

(namely death). Seek assistance of Allah for fulfillment of His obligatory rights, and for (thanking Him) for His countless bounties and obligations.

Imam Ali – Nahjul Balagha Sermon 97



Do you feel it when the Angel of Death enters a house, or do you see him when he takes out life of anyone? How does he take out the life of an embryo in the womb of his mother? Does he reach it through any part of her body or the spirit responded to his call with the permission of Allah? Or does he stay with him in the mother's interior? How can he who is unable to describe a creature like this, describe Allah?

Imam Ali – Nahjul Balagha Sermon 110



O Moses, look down to the ground, for it will soon be your grave. Raise your sight toward the heavens, for there is surely a great kingdom. Weep for yourself as long as you are (living) in this world. Beware of perdition and destructions. Do not be deceived by the illusory pleasures of this world. Do not accede to wrongness and do not be unjust, for I am waylaying the unjust until I retaliate for the oppressed ones.

God's Confidential Talk with Moses – Tubaf al-Uqul



O Moses, order My servants to supplicate to Me, regardless of their conditions, after they believe in Me. I am surely the most merciful among the merciful ones. I answer the prayers of the distressed ones, remove the hardship, change the condition, bring about comfort, thank the few (deed), reward abundantly, and enrich the poor. I am the Everlasting, the All-Mighty, and the All-Powerful. You should receive any wrongdoer who seeks your refuge and comes under your shade with: Welcome, you have resided in the widest yard; the yard of the Lord of the worlds.

In addition, you should seek (My) forgiveness to them. Behave as if you are one of them. Do not puff up against them for the favors that I have bestowed upon you. Tell them that they should ask Me for My favor and mercy, for no one possess them except Me. I am the Master of the great favor, haven of the wrongdoers, sitter of the distressed ones, and forgiver of the guilty. You are occupying the place that I like; therefore, supplicate to Me with a pure heart and honest tongue. Be as exactly as I ordered you to be: comply with My orders and do not be haughty against My servants for that which you have not originated for yourself. Seek nearness to Me, for I am near to you. I have not ordained you to do what is heavy for you; I only ask you to pray to me so that I will answer you, to ask Me so that I will give you, and to approach to Me through the things that I have supplied you with their interpretation and I am responsible for revealing them perfectly

God's Confidential Talk with Moses – Tubaf al-Uqul



There is an angel of Allah who calls out every day:
“Beget children for death, collect wealth for destruction, and raise construction for ruin.”

Imam Ali - Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 132



O Allah, by Your knowledge of the unseen and Your power over the creation, give me life if You know life is good for me and cause me to die if death is better for me. O Allah I ask you for sincerity in my actions, and that I remain fearful of Your Majesty in times of happiness and anger, and moderate in wealth and poverty. And I ask You for incessant blessings, and for coolness of the eyes that does not stop, and for satisfaction with Your divine decree. I ask for a good life after death, and I ask You to allow me to look upon Your countenance and have a yearning for meeting You, without any harm or tribulation [befalling me]. O Allah, adorn us with the ornament of faith and place us among the guided leaders, O Lord of the world.

Syeda Fatimah az-Zahra - Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 94, p. 225



Native America

O Great Spirit whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, Hear me!

I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom, let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so I may see, ever so clearly, the ways you have to teach me.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and cloud. I seek your strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy...myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Chief Yellow Lark – Lakota



I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself.

Chief Isna Wica– Oglala Lakota



What is Life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset. The True Peace. The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells Wakan-Taka (the Great Spirit), and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us. This is the real peace, and the others are but reflections of this. The second peace is that which is made between two individuals, and the third is that which is made between two nations. But above all you should understand that there can never be peace between nations until there is known that true peace, which, as I have often said, is within the souls of men.

Black Elk – Oglala Lakota



The Holy Land is everywhere.

Black Elk – Oglala Lakota



All are our relatives.

Lakota Proverb



It is better to have less thunder in the mouth and more lightning in the hand.

Apache Proverb



When you are in doubt, be still, and wait; when doubt no longer exists for you, then go forward with courage. So long as mists envelop you, be still; be still until the sunlight pours through and dispels the mists - as it surely will. Then act with courage.

Chief White Eagle - Ponca



One finger can't lift a pebble.

Hopi Proverb



Eating little and speaking little can hurt no man.

Hopi Proverb



When you were born, you cried, and the world rejoices. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.

Cherokee Proverb



Do not allow yesterday to spend up too much of today.

Cherokee Proverb



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

Crow Proverb



You already possess everything necessary to become great.

Crow Proverb



Remember that your children are not your own, but are lent to you by the Creator.

Mohawk Proverb



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

Omaha Proverb



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

Arapaho Proverb



One rain does not make a crop.

Creole Proverb



Thoughts are like arrows: once released, they strike their mark.
Guard them well or one day you may be your own victim.

Navajo Proverb



If you want to see what your body will look like tomorrow, look at
your thoughts today.

Navajo Proverb



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

Navajo Proverb



A rocky vineyard does not need a prayer, but a pick axe.

Navajo Proverb



I have been to the end of the earth,
I have been to the end of the waters,
I have been to the end of the sky,
I have been to the end of the mountains,
I have found none that are not my friends

Navajo Proverb



Walk tall as the trees, live strong as the mountains, be gentle as the spring winds, and keep the warmth of the summer sun in your heart, and the Great Spirit will always be with you.

Navajo Proverb



Always assume your guest is tired, cold, and hungry – and act accordingly.

Navajo Proverb



A man can't get rich if he takes proper care of his family.

Navajo Proverb



If a man is as wise as a serpent, he can afford to be as harmless as a dove.

Navajo Proverb



Up to you, that's the way of it.

Navajo Proverb



Hawai'i

Those who draw out the liver of the octopus, to prepare bait for fishermen.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Never mind if the food underneath burns; see that the food at the top is not half cooked.

Hawai'ian Proverb



A life of confusion, living this way and that.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Learn to lie and the next thing will be to steal.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Fish have no feet; you who have feet must come and get it.

Hawai'ian Proverb



No canoe is defiant on a stormy day.

Hawai'ian Proverb



No cliff is so tall that it cannot be scaled.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Small sins are weak in the creeping stage, changeable in childhood, unchanging when an adult, and firmly fixed in age.

Hawai'ian Proverb



All knowledge is not taught in the same school.

Hawai'ian Proverb



The top of the cliff isn't the place to look at us; come down here and learn of the big and little current, face to face.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Things will not mourn you, but people will.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Nothing remains in the corners.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Nothing is gained by idleness.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Other people's pigs would not come in if the fence were kept in good repair.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Life is in the mouth; death is in the mouth.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Let the singer select the song.

Hawai'ian Proverb



On the slope of a cliff, not one jutting rock is hidden from sight.

Hawai'ian Proverb



If the source of water is dirty, the muddy water will travel on.

Hawai'ian Proverb



The chief knows his servant; the servant knows his chief.

Hawai'ian Proverb



If one dreams of bananas it is useless to go fishing.

Hawai'ian Proverb



No one who takes care of his possessions has ever found them eaten by rats.

Hawai'ian Proverb



The goodness of the taro is judged by the young plant it produces.

Hawai'ian Proverb



The knowledge of the parent is [unconsciously] absorbed by the child.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Let the selecting be done in heaven.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Tiny is the flower, yet it scents the grasses around it.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Instruct well in the little and the large currents of knowledge.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Like the one from whom he received what he learned.

Hawai'ian Proverb



A fisherman of the shallow sea uses only a short line; a fisherman of the deep sea has a long line.

Hawai'ian Proverb



You will be well served when you care for the person who serves you.

Hawai'ian Proverb



Know in the day of knowing; mana in the day of mana.

Hawai'ian Proverb



A dream is a bearer of messages to man.

Hawai'ian Proverb



The land remains the land because of the chiefs, and prosperity comes to the land because of the common people.

Hawai'ian Proverb



The land is our chief. We are its servants.

Hawai'ian Proverb



A relationship that cannot be undone.

Hawai'ian Proverb



China

It is not the failures of others to appreciate your abilities that should trouble you, but rather your failure to appreciate theirs.

Confucius



At fifteen I set my heart on learning; at thirty I took my stand; at forty I came to be free from doubts; at fifty I understood the Decree of Heaven; at sixty my ear was attuned; at seventy I followed my heart's desire without overstepping the line.

Confucius



The rule of virtue can be compared to the Pole Star which commands the homage of the multitude of stars without leaving its place.

Confucius



Look at the means a man employs, observe the path he takes and examine where he feels at home. In what way is a man's true character hidden from view? In what way is a man's true character hidden from view?

Confucius



The gentleman desires to be halting in speech but quick in action.

Confucius



A man is worthy of being a teacher who gets to know what is new by keeping fresh in his mind what he is already familiar with.

Confucius



If one learns from others but does not think, one will be bewildered. If, on the other hand, one thinks but does not learn from others, one will be in peril.

Confucius



Yu, shall I tell you what it is to know. To say you know when you know, and to say you do not when you do not, that is knowledge.

Confucius



Virtue never stands alone. It is bound to have neighbors.

Confucius



I do not see how a man can be acceptable who is untrustworthy in word? When a pin is missing in the yoke-bar of a large cart or in the collar-bar of a small cart, how can the cart be expected to go?

Confucius



It is only the benevolent man who is capable of liking or disliking other men.

Confucius



Have the firm faith to devote yourself to learning, and abide to the death in the good way. Enter not a state that is in peril; stay not in a state that is in danger. Show yourself when the Way prevails in the Empire, but hide yourself when it does not. It is a shameful matter to be poor and humble when the Way prevails in the state. Equally, it is a shameful matter to be rich and noble when the Way falls into disuse in the state.

Confucius



In his errors a man is true to type. Observe the errors and you will know the man.

Confucius



In his dealings with the world the gentleman is not invariably for or against anything. He is on the side of what is moral.

Confucius



While the gentleman cherishes benign rule, the small man cherishes his native land. While the gentleman cherishes a respect for the law, the small man cherishes generous treatment.

Confucius



The gentleman understands what is moral. The small man understands what is profitable.

Confucius



When you meet someone better than yourself, turn your thoughts to becoming his equal. When you meet someone not as good as you are, look within and examine your own self.

Confucius



While standing by a river, the Confucius said, 'What passes away is, perhaps, like this. Day and night it never lets up.'

Confucius



Even when walking in the company of two other men, I am bound to be able to learn from them. The good points of the one I copy; the bad points of the other I correct in myself.

Confucius



I was not born with knowledge but, being fond of antiquity, I am quick to seek it.

Confucius



It is these things that cause me concern: failure to cultivate virtue, failure to go more deeply into what I have learned, inability, when I am told what is right, to move to where it is, and inability to reform myself when I have defects.

Confucius



What the gentleman seeks, he seeks within himself; what the small man seeks, he seeks in others.

Confucius



The gentleman helps others to realize what is good in them; he does not help them to realize what is bad in them. The small man does the opposite.

Confucius



The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Lao Tzu



Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.

Lao Tzu



Simplicity, patience, compassion.

These three are your greatest treasures.

Simple in actions and thoughts, you return to the source of being.

Patient with both friends and enemies,

you accord with the way things are.

Compassionate toward yourself,

you reconcile all beings in the world.

Lao Tzu



The truth is not always beautiful, nor beautiful words the truth.

Lao Tzu



Knowing others is intelligence;

knowing yourself is true wisdom.

Mastering others is strength;

mastering yourself is true power.

Lao Tzu



Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like.

Lao Tzu



Those who know do not speak. Those who speak do not know.

Lao Tzu



When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everyone will respect you.

Lao Tzu



If you are depressed you are living in the past.
If you are anxious you are living in the future.
If you are at peace you are living in the present.

Lao Tzu



Time is a created thing. To say 'I don't have time,' is like saying, 'I don't want to.'

Lao Tzu



A man with outward courage dares to die; a man with inner courage dares to live.

Lao Tzu



Because one believes in oneself, one doesn't try to convince others. Because one is content with oneself, one doesn't need others' approval. Because one accepts oneself, the whole world accepts him or her.

Lao Tzu



Care about what other people think and you will always be their prisoner.

Lao Tzu



Be content with what you have;
rejoice in the way things are.
When you realize there is nothing lacking,
the whole world belongs to you.

Lao Tzu



The flame that burns twice as bright burns half as long.

Lao Tzu



At the center of your being
you have the answer;
you know who you are
and you know what you want.

Lao Tzu



Be careful what you water your dreams with. Water them with worry and fear and you will produce weeds that choke the life from your dream. Water them with optimism and solutions and you will cultivate success. Always be on the lookout for ways to turn a problem into an opportunity for success. Always be on the lookout for ways to nurture your dream.

Lao Tzu



Do you have the patience to wait until your mud settles and the water is clear?

Lao Tzu



If you understand others you are smart.
If you understand yourself you are illuminated.
If you overcome others you are powerful.
If you overcome yourself you have strength.
If you know how to be satisfied you are rich.
If you can act with vigor, you have a will.

If you don't lose your objectives you can be long-lasting.
If you die without loss, you are eternal.

Lao Tzu



Those who flow as life flows know they need no other force.

Lao Tzu



Stop thinking, and end your problems.

Lao Tzu



Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates
profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

Lao Tzu



Manifest plainness,
Embrace simplicity,
Reduce selfishness,
Have few desires.

Lao Tzu



When the Master governs, the people
are hardly aware that he exists.
Next best is a leader who is loved.
Next, one who is feared.
The worst is one who is despised.

If you don't trust people,
you make them untrustworthy.

The Master doesn't talk, he acts.
When his work is done,
the people say, "Amazing:
we did it, all by ourselves!"

Lao Tzu



Go to the people. Live with them. Learn from them. Love them.
Start with what they know. Build with what they have. But with the
best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the
people will say 'We have done this ourselves.'

Lao Tzu



Music in the soul can be heard by the universe.

Lao Tzu



Respond intelligently even to unintelligent treatment.

Lao Tzu



Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.

Lao Tzu



To attain knowledge, add things everyday. To attain wisdom, remove things every day.

Lao Tzu



Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

Lao Tzu



Act without expectation.

Lao Tzu



I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness; the second is frugality; the third is humility, which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men.

Lao Tzu



Doing nothing is better than being busy doing nothing.

Lao Tzu



Knowledge is a treasure, but practice is the key to it.

Lao Tzu



To a mind that is still the whole universe surrenders.

Lao Tzu



To know that you do not know is the best.

To think you know when you do not is a disease.

Recognizing this disease as a disease is to be free of it.

Lao Tzu



Water is the softest thing, yet it can penetrate mountains and earth. This shows clearly the principle of softness overcoming hardness.

Lao Tzu



Men are born soft and supple; dead they are stiff and hard. Plants are born tender and pliant; dead, they are brittle and dry. Thus whoever is stiff and inflexible is a disciple of death. Whoever is soft and yielding is a disciple of life. The hard and stiff will be broken. The soft and supple will prevail.

Lao Tzu



If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.

Lao Tzu



The snow goose need not bathe to make itself white. Neither need you do anything but be yourself.

Lao Tzu



If a person seems wicked, do not cast him away. Awaken him with your words, elevate him with your deeds, repay his injury with your kindness. Do not cast him away; cast away his wickedness.

Lao Tzu



If you realize that all things change, there is nothing you will try to hold on to. If you are not afraid of dying, there is nothing you cannot achieve.

Lao Tzu



In dwelling, live close to the ground. In thinking, keep to the simple. In conflict, be fair and generous. In governing, don't try to control. In work, do what you enjoy. In family life, be completely present.

Lao Tzu



Accomplish but do not boast, accomplish without show, accomplish without arrogance, accomplish without grabbing, accomplish without forcing.

Lao Tzu



All streams flow to the sea because it is lower than they are. Humility gives it its power. If you want to govern the people, you must place yourself below them. If you want to lead the people, you must learn how to follow them.

Lao Tzu



What the caterpillar calls the end, the rest of the world calls a butterfly.

Lao Tzu



Stop leaving and you will arrive. Stop searching and you will see. Stop running away and you will be found.

Lao Tzu



The further one goes, the less one knows.

Lao Tzu



When the student is ready the teacher will appear. When the student is truly ready... The teacher will disappear.

Lao Tzu



Embracing Tao, you become embraced.
Supple, breathing gently, you become reborn.
Clearing your vision, you become clear.
Nurturing your beloved, you become impartial.
Opening your heart, you become accepted.
Accepting the World, you embrace Tao.
Bearing and nurturing,
Creating but not owning,
Giving without demanding,
Controlling without authority,
This is love

Lao Tzu



She does not show herself, and therefore is apparent. She does not affirm herself, and therefore is acknowledged. She does not boast and therefore has merit. She does not strive and therefore is successful. It is exactly because she does not contend, that nobody can contend with her.

Lao Tzu



Trying to understand is like straining through muddy water. Have the patience to wait! Be still and allow the mud to settle.

Lao Tzu



Your own positive future begins in this moment. All you have is right now. Every goal is possible from her

Lao Tzu



When people see some things as beautiful,
other things become ugly.
When people see some things as good,
other things become bad.

Lao Tzu



So the unwanting soul
sees what's hidden,
and the ever-wanting soul
sees only what it wants.

Lao Tzu



When there is no desire,
all things are at peace.

Lao Tzu



Close your mouth,
block off your senses,
blunt your sharpness,
untie your knots,
soften your glare,
settle your dust.
This is the primal identity.

Lao Tzu



We join spokes together in a wheel,
but it is the center hole
that makes the wagon move.

We shape clay into a pot,
but it is the emptiness inside
that holds whatever we want.

We hammer wood for a house,
but it is the inner space
that makes it livable.

We work with being,
but non-being is what we use.

Lao Tzu



He who conquers others is strong; he who conquers himself is mighty.

Lao Tzu



A good traveler has no fixed plans
and is not intent upon arriving.
A good artist lets his intuition
lead him wherever it wants.
A good scientist has freed himself of concepts
and keeps his mind open to what is.

Thus the Master is available to all people
and doesn't reject anyone.
He is ready to use all situations
and doesn't waste anything.
This is called embodying the light.

What is a good man but a bad man's teacher?
What is a bad man but a good man's job?
If you don't understand this, you will get lost,
however intelligent you are.
It is the great secret.

Lao Tzu



Do you have the patience to wait
Till your mud settles and the water is clear?

Can you remain unmoving
Till the right action arises by itself?

Lao Tzu



Success is as dangerous as failure.
Hope is as hollow as fear.

Lao Tzu



True words aren't eloquent;
eloquent words aren't true.
Wise men don't need to prove their point;
men who need to prove their point aren't wise.
The Master has no possessions.
The more he does for others,
the happier he is.
The more he gives to others,
the wealthier he is.

Lao Tzu



If you correct your mind, the rest of your life will fall into place.

Lao Tzu



Countless words
count less
than the silent balance
between yin and yang.

Lao Tzu



There is
a time to live
and a time to die
but never to reject the moment.

Lao Tzu



To hold, you must first open your hand. Let go.

Lao Tzu



Rushing into action, you fail.
Trying to grasp things, you lose them.
Forcing a project to completion,
you ruin what was almost ripe.

Therefore the Master takes action
by letting things take their course.
He remains as calm at the end
as at the beginning.
He has nothing,

thus has nothing to lose.
What he desires is non-desire;
what he learns is to unlearn.
He simply reminds people
of who they have always been.
He cares about nothing but the Tao.
Thus he can care for all things.

Lao Tzu



Great acts are made up of small deeds.

Lao Tzu



Health is the greatest possession. Contentment is the greatest treasure. Confidence is the greatest friend.

Lao Tzu



Hope and fear are both phantoms that arise from thinking of the self. When we don't see the self as self, what do we have to fear?

Lao Tzu



The past has no power to stop you
from being present now.
Only your grievance about
the past can do that.

What is grievance?
The baggage of old
thought and emotion.

Lao Tzu



Do you imagine the universe is agitated? Go into the desert at night
and look at the stars. This practice should answer the question.

Lao Tzu



Fill your bowl to the brim and it will spill. Keep sharpening your
knife and it will blunt.

Lao Tzu



New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings.

Lao Tzu



He who stands on tiptoe
doesn't stand firm.
He who rushes ahead
doesn't go far.
He who tries to shine
dims his own light.
He who defines himself
can't know who he really is.

He who has power over others
can't empower himself.
He who clings to his work
will create nothing that endures.

If you want to accord with the Tao,
just do your job, then let go.

Lao Tzu



My teachings are easy to understand
and easy to put into practice.
Yet your intellect will never grasp them,
and if you try to practice them, you'll fail.

My teachings are older than the world.
How can you grasp their meaning?

If you want to know me,
Look inside your heart.

Lao Tzu



He who knows that enough is enough will always have enough.

Lao Tzu



A great nation is like a great man:
When he makes a mistake, he realizes it.

Having realized it, he admits it.
Having admitted it, he corrects it.
He considers those who point out his faults
as his most benevolent teachers.
He thinks of his enemy
as the shadow that he himself casts.

Lao Tzu



If you wish to be out front, then act as if you were behind.

Lao Tzu



Would you like to save the world from the degradation and destruction it seems destined for? Then step away from shallow mass movements and quietly go to work on your own self-awareness. If you want to awaken all of humanity, then awaken all of yourself. If you want to eliminate the suffering in the world, then eliminate all that is dark and negative in yourself. Truly, the greatest gift you have to give is that of your own self-transformation.

Lao Tzu



Love is of all the passions the strongest, for it attacks simultaneously the head, the heart, and the senses.

Lao Tzu



If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.
If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.
If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbors.
If there is to be peace between neighbors,
There must be peace in the home.
If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.

Failure is an opportunity.
If you blame someone else,
there is no end to the blame.
Therefore the Master
fulfills her own obligations
and corrects her own mistakes.
She does what she needs to do
and demands nothing of others.

Lao Tzu



Empty your mind of all thoughts.
Let your heart be at peace.
Watch the turmoil of beings,
but contemplate their return.

Each separate being in the universe

returns to the common source.
Returning to the source is serenity.

If you don't realize the source,
you stumble in confusion and sorrow.
When you realize where you come from,
you naturally become tolerant,
disinterested, amused,
kindhearted as a grandmother,
dignified as a king.
Immersed in the wonder of the Tao,
you can deal with whatever life brings you,
and when death comes, you are ready.

Lao Tzu



Fame or integrity: which is more important? Money or happiness: which is more valuable? Success or failure: which is more destructive? If you look to others for fulfillment, you will never truly be fulfilled. If your happiness depends on money, you will never be happy with yourself. Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you.

Lao Tzu



He who knows others is wise; he who knows himself is enlightened.

Lao Tzu



Take care with the end as you do with the beginning.

Lao Tzu



Some lose yet gain, others gain and yet lose.

Lao Tzu



When pure sincerity forms within, it is outwardly realized in other people's hearts.

Lao Tzu



The person of superior integrity
does not insist upon his integrity.
For this reason, he has integrity.
The person of inferior integrity
never loses sight of his integrity;
For this reason, he lacks integrity.

Lao Tzu



The difficult problems in life always start off being simple. Great affairs always start off being small.

Lao Tzu



The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao.
The name that can be named is not the eternal name.
The nameless is the beginning of heaven and earth.
The named is the mother of ten thousand things.
Ever desireless, one can see the mystery.
Ever desiring, one can see the manifestations.
These two spring from the same source but differ in name;
this appears as darkness.
Darkness within darkness.
The gate to all mystery.

Lao Tzu



The heart that gives, gathers.

Lao Tzu



If you are untrustworthy, people will not trust you.

Lao Tzu



When you accept yourself, the whole world accepts you.

Lao Tzu



A good traveler leaves no tracks. Good speech lacks fault-finding.

Lao Tzu



The wise man does not lay up his own treasures.
The more he gives to others,
the more he has for his own.

Lao Tzu



He who defends with love will be secure; Heaven will save him, and
protect him with love.

Lao Tzu



If you search everywhere, yet cannot find what you are seeking, it is
because what you seek is already in your possession.

Lao Tzu



The Wise Man is square but not sharp, honest but not not malign,
straight but not severe, bright but not dazzling.

Lao Tzu



Thus it is said:
The path into the light seems dark,
the path forward seems to go back,
the direct path seems long,
true power seems weak,

true purity seems tarnished,
true steadfastness seems changeable,
true clarity seems obscure,
the greatest are seems unsophisticated,
the greatest love seems indifferent,
the greatest wisdom seems childish.

The Tao is nowhere to be found.
Yet it nourishes and completes all things.

Lao Tzu



The inner is foundation of the outer
The still is master of the restless

The Sage travels all day
yet never leaves his inner treasure.

Lao Tzu



To speak little is natural. Therefore a gale does not blow a whole morning nor does a downpour last a whole day.

Lao Tzu



Chanting is no more holy than listening to the murmur of a stream,
counting prayer beads no more scared than simply breathing,
religious robed no more spiritual than work clothes.

Lao Tzu



Look, and it can't be seen.
Listen, and it can't be heard.
Reach, and it can't be grasped.

Above, it isn't bright.
Below, it isn't dark.
Seamless, unnamable,
it returns to the realm of nothing.
Form that includes all forms,
image without an image,
subtle, beyond all conception.

Approach it and there is no beginning;
follow it and there is no end.
You can't know it, but you can be it,
at ease in your own life.
Just realize where you come from:
this is the essence of wisdom.

Lao Tzu



As to the roaming of sages,
They move in utter emptiness,
Let their minds meander in the great nothingness;
They run beyond convention
And go through where there is no gateway.
They listen to the soundless
And look at the formless,
They are not constrained by society
And not bound to its customs.

Lao Tzu



There is no illusion greater than fear.

Lao Tzu



As to the roaming of sages,
They move in utter emptiness,
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Lao Tzu



When people see some things as beautiful,
other things become ugly.
When people see some things as good,
other things become bad.

Being and non-being create each other.
Difficult and easy support each other.
Long and short define each other.
High and low depend on each other.
Before and after follow each other.

Therefore the Master
acts without doing anything
and teaches without saying anything.
Things arise and she lets them come;
things disappear and she lets them go.
She has but doesn't possess,
acts but doesn't expect.
When her work is done, she forgets it.
That is why it lasts forever.

Lao Tzu



An ocean of ink in a single drop,
Trembling at the tip of my brush.
Poised above stark white paper,
A universe waits for existence.

Lao Tzu



When I let go of what I am
I become what I might be.

Lao Tzu



Now the general who wins a battle makes many calculations in his temple ere the battle is fought. The general who loses a battle makes but few calculations beforehand. Thus do many calculations lead to victory, and few calculations to defeat: how much more no calculation at all! It is by attention to this point that I can foresee who is likely to win or lose.

Sun Tzu



The skillful soldier does not raise a second levy, neither are his supply-wagons loaded more than twice.

Sun Tzu



If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.

Sun Tzu



The consummate leader cultivates the moral law, and strictly adheres to method and discipline; thus it is in his power to control success.

Sun Tzu



The quality of decision is like the well-timed swoop of a falcon which enables it to strike and destroy its victim.

Sun Tzu



Do not repeat the tactics which have gained you one victory, but let your methods be regulated by the infinite variety of circumstances.

Sun Tzu



Therefore, just as water retains no constant shape, so in warfare there are no constant conditions.

Sun Tzu



The five elements (water, fire, wood, metal, earth) are not always equally predominant; the four seasons make way for each other in turn. There are short days and long; the moon has its periods of waning and waxing.

Sun Tzu



If it is to your advantage, make a forward move; if not, stay where you are.

Sun Tzu



The enlightened ruler lays his plans well ahead; the good general cultivates his resources.

Sun Tzu



Indus Valley

However many holy words you read, however many you speak, what good will they do you if you do not act on upon them?

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



There is nothing more dreadful than the habit of doubt. Doubt separates people. It is a poison that disintegrates friendships and breaks up pleasant relations. It is a thorn that irritates and hurts; it is a sword that kills.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts and made up of our thoughts. If a man speak or act with an evil thought, suffering follows him as the wheel follows the hoof of the beast that draws the wagon.... If a man speak or act with a good thought, happiness follows him like a shadow that never leaves him.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Do not look for a sanctuary in anyone except your self.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Three things can not hide for long: the Moon, the Sun and the Truth.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



You will not be punished for your anger; you will be punished by your anger.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Your purpose in life is to find your purpose and give your whole heart and soul to it.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Every morning we are born again. What we do today is what matters most.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Let us rise up and be thankful, for if we didn't learn a lot at least we learned a little, and if we didn't learn a little, at least we didn't get sick, and if we got sick, at least we didn't die; so, let us all be thankful.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



If you truly loved yourself, you could never hurt another.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



A man is not called wise because he talks and talks again; but if he is peaceful, loving and fearless then he is in truth called wise.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Better than a thousand hollow words is one word that brings peace.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Conquer the angry one by not getting angry; conquer the wicked by goodness; conquer the stingy by generosity, and the liar by speaking the truth.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



An insincere and evil friend is more to be feared than a wild beast; a wild beast may wound your body, but an evil friend will wound your mind.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly our whole life would change.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Meditate.
Live purely. Be quiet.
Do your work with mastery.
Like the moon, come out
from behind the clouds!
Shine

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



As rain falls equally on the just and the unjust, do not burden your heart with judgements, but rain your kindness equally on all.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Set your heart on doing good. Do it over and over again, and you will be filled with joy.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Long is the night to him who is awake; long is a mile to him who is tired; long is life to the foolish who do not know the true law.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



If we fail to look after others when they need help, who will look after us?

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



The Way is not in the sky; the Way is in the heart.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



A man asked Gautama Buddha, "I want happiness."
Buddha said, "First remove 'I,' that's Ego, then remove 'want,' that's Desire.
See now you are left with only "Happiness."

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Even as a solid rock is unshaken by the wind, so are the wise unshaken by praise or blame.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Those who have failed to work toward the truth have missed the purpose of living.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Praise and blame, gain and loss, pleasure and sorrow come and go like the wind. To be happy, rest like a giant tree in the midst of them all.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



If you find no one to support you on the spiritual path, walk alone. There is no companionship with the immature.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



The one who has conquered himself is a far greater hero than he who has defeated a thousand times a thousand men.

Buddha Siddhartha Gautama



A family is a place where minds come in contact with one another. If these minds love one another the home will be as beautiful as a flower garden. But if these minds get out of harmony with one another it is like a storm that plays havoc with the garden.

Buddha Siddhartha Gautama



Just to say 'I believe' or 'I do not doubt' does not mean that you understand and see. To force oneself to see and accept a thing without understanding is political and not spiritual or intellectual.

Buddha Siddhartha Gautama



What you think, you become.
What you feel, you attract.
What you imagine, you create.

Buddha Siddhartha Gautama



What you are is what you have been. What you'll be is what you do now.

Buddha Siddhartha Gautama



Kindness should become the natural way of life, not the exception.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



When you come upon a path
that brings benefit
and happiness to all,
follow this course
as the moon
journeys through the stars.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



If a traveller does not meet with one who is his better, or his equal,
let him firmly keep to his solitary journey; there is no
companionship with a fool.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



He is able who thinks he is able.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



There isn't enough darkness in all the world to snuff out the light of
one little candle

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



When you like a flower, you just pluck it.
But when you love a flower, you water it daily.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Imagine that every person in the world is enlightened but you. They are all your teachers, each doing just the right things to help you learn perfect patience, perfect wisdom, perfect compassion.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



How wonderful! How wonderful! All things are perfect, exactly as they are.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Learn this from water: loud splashes the brook, but the oceans depth are calm.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



If you light a lamp for somebody, it will also brighten your path.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance and extends generously the products of its life activity; it affords protection to all beings, offering shade even to the axe-man who destroys it.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Look not to the faults of others, nor to their omissions and commissions. But rather look to your own acts, to what you have done and left undone.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



The non-doing of any evil,
the performance of what's skillful,
the cleansing of one's own mind:
this is the teaching of the Awakened.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Few among men are they who cross to the further shore. The others merely run up and down the bank on this side.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



The ignorant man is an ox. He grows in size, not in wisdom.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Generosity brings happiness at every stage of its expression. We experience joy in forming the intention to be generous. We experience joy in the actual act of giving something. And we experience joy in remembering the fact that we have given

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Do not overlook tiny good actions, thinking they are of no benefit; even tiny drops of water in the end will fill a huge vessel.

Do not overlook negative actions merely because they are small; however small a spark may be, it can burn down a haystack as big as a mountain.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



In this world
Hate never yet dispelled hate
Only love dispels hate
This is the law
Ancient and inexhaustible
You too shall pass away
Knowing this, how can you quarrel?

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



The Gift of Truth excels all other Gifts.

Buddha Sidartha Gautama



Let my speech be established in my mind, Let my mind be established in my speech, Let the knowledge of the self-manifest [soul] grow in me, Let my mind and speech be the support to experience the knowledge of the Vedas, Let what is heard by me be not a mere appearance ...But what is gained by studying day and night be retained, I speak about the divine truth, I speak about the absolute truth, May that protect me, May that protect the preceptor (teacher), May that protect me, May that protect the preceptor (teacher), May that protect the preceptor (teacher), Peace! Peace! Peace!

Aitareya Upanishad



May God protect us both (the Teacher and the Student).
May God nourish us both.
May we work together with energy and vigor.
May our study be enlightening, and not giving rise to hostility.

Mandukya Upanishad



Keep me not in the unreality but lead me towards the reality.
Keep me not in the darkness (of ignorance), but lead me towards the light.
Keep me not in the (fear of) death, but lead me towards the immortality.

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad



May there be Well-Being in All, May there be Peace in All, May there be Fulfillment in All, May there be Auspiciousness in All.

Atharva Veda



Fight for the sake of duty, treating alike happiness and distress, loss and gain, victory and defeat. Fulfilling your duty and responsibility in this way, you will never incur sin.

Bhagavad Gita 2:38



You have a right to perform your prescribed duties, but you are not entitled to the fruits of your actions. Never consider yourself to be the cause of the results of your activities, nor be attached to inaction.

Bhagavad Gita 2:47



One whose mind remains undisturbed amidst misery, who does not crave for pleasure, and who is free from attachment, fear, and anger, is called a sage of steady wisdom.

Bhagavad Gita 2:56



Anger leads to clouding of judgment, which results in bewilderment of the memory. When the memory is bewildered, the intellect gets destroyed; and when the intellect is destroyed, one is ruined.

Bhagavad Gita 2:63



The one whose mind is in control, and who is free from likes and dislikes (attachment and aversion), attains tranquility of the mind, even though he/she is interacting with the world with the senses engaged among the objects

Bhagavad Gita 2:64



But an undisciplined person, who has not controlled the mind and senses, can neither have a resolute intellect nor steady contemplation on God. For one who never unites the mind with God there is no peace; and how can one who lacks peace be happy?

Bhagavad Gita 2:66



A person who is content with the self, who has mastered the senses and is undisturbed, finds ultimate peace like the ocean that is unaffected by rivers flowing into it.

Bhagavad Gita 2:70



For the one who has conquered the mind, the mind is the best of friends; but for the one who has failed to do so, the mind remains the greatest enemy.

Bhagavad Gita 6:6



Hellas

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.

Aristotle



Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.

Aristotle



We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

Aristotle



You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor.

Aristotle



Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny.

Aristotle



Anybody can become angry — that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose, and in the right way — that is not within everybody's power and is not easy.

Aristotle



A friend to all is a friend to none.

Aristotle



Those who educate children well are more to be honored than they who produce them; for these only gave them life, those the art of living well.

Aristotle



Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.

Aristotle



He who has overcome his fears will truly be free.

Aristotle



Those who know, do. Those that understand, teach

Aristotle



Happiness depends upon ourselves.

Aristotle



The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living differ from the dead.

Aristotle



I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who conquers his enemies, for the hardest victory is over self.

Aristotle



The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.

Aristotle



The antidote for fifty enemies is one friend.

Aristotle



The high-minded man must care more for the truth than for what people think.

Aristotle



Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.

Aristotle



To write well, express yourself like the common people, but think like a wise man.

Aristotle



For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.

Aristotle



It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.

Aristotle



“He who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader.

Aristotle



Learning is an ornament in prosperity, a refuge in adversity, and a provision in old age.

Aristotle



All persons ought to endeavor to follow what is right, and not what is established.

Aristotle



The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law.

Aristotle



He is his own best friend and takes delight in privacy whereas the man of no virtue or ability is his own worst enemy and is afraid of solitude.

Aristotle



Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting a particular way... you become just by performing just actions, temperate by performing temperate actions, brave by performing brave actions.

Aristotle



The aim of the wise is not to secure pleasure, but to avoid pain.

Aristotle



At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst.

Aristotle



The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.

Aristotle



The more you know, the more you know you don't know.

Aristotle



What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.

Aristotle



If the art of ship-building were in the wood, ships would exist by nature.

Aristotle



All teaching and all intellectual learning come about from already existing knowledge.

Aristotle



Virtue is the golden mean between two vices, the one of excess and the other of deficiency.

Aristotle



The ultimate value of life depends upon awareness and the power of contemplation rather than upon mere survival.

Aristotle



Suffering becomes beautiful when anyone bears great calamities with cheerfulness, not through insensibility but through greatness of mind.

Aristotle



Life is only meaningful when we are striving for a goal.

Aristotle



Prefer a loss to a dishonest gain; the one brings pain at the moment, the other for all time.

Chilon



Day by day, what you choose, what you think and what you do is who you become.

Heraclitus



Character is destiny.

Heraclitus



There is nothing permanent except change.

Heraclitus



Big results require big ambitions.

Heraclitus



Before you heal someone, ask him if he's willing to give up the things that make him sick..

Hippocrates



It is far more important to know what person the disease has than what disease the person has.

Hippocrates



Declare the past, diagnose the present, foretell the future.

Hippocrates



What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.

Pericles



For a man to conquer himself is the first and noblest of all victories.

Plato



The worst of all deceptions is self-deception.

Plato



Those who are able to see beyond the shadows and lies of their culture will never be understood, let alone believed, by the masses.

Plato



Education is teaching our children to desire the right things.

Plato



In politics we presume that everyone who knows how to get votes knows how to administer a city or a state. When we are ill... we do not ask for the handsomest physician, or the most eloquent one.

Plato



I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing.

Plato



You should not honor men more than truth.

Plato



The empty vessel makes the loudest sound.

Plato



Bodily exercise, when compulsory, does no harm to the body; but knowledge which is acquired under compulsion obtains no hold on the mind.

Plato



We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

Plato



No wealth can ever make a bad man at peace with himself.

Plato



No evil can happen to a good man, either in life or after death.

Plato



Ignorance, the root and stem of all evil.

Plato



The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life.

Plato



Knowledge without justice ought to be called cunning rather than wisdom.

Plato



Human behavior flows from three main sources: desire, emotion, and knowledge.

Plato



Knowledge is the food of the soul.

Plato



If a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life.

Plato



No man should bring children into the world who is unwilling to persevere to the end in their nature and education.

Plato



False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.

Plato



Thinking: the talking of the soul with itself.

Plato



People are like dirt. They can either nourish you and help you grow as a person or they can stunt your growth and make you wilt and die.

Plato



Any man may easily do harm, but not every man can do good to another.

Plato



Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.

Plato



Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools speak because they have to say something.

Plato



A library of wisdom, is more precious than all wealth, and all things that are desirable cannot be compared to it. Whoever therefore claims to be zealous of truth, of happiness, of wisdom or knowledge, must become a lover of books.

Plato



The beginning is the most important part of the work.

Plato



The untrained mind keeps up a running commentary, labeling everything, judging everything. Best to ignore that commentary. Don't argue or resist, just ignore. Deprived of attention and interest, this voice gets quieter and quieter and eventually just shuts up.

Plato



When men speak ill of thee, live so as nobody may believe them.

Plato



This City is what it is because our citizens are what they are.

Plato



No law or ordinance is mightier than understanding.

Plato



There are two things a person should never be angry at, what they can help, and what they cannot.

Plato



Must not all things at the last be swallowed up in death?

Plato



The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.

Socrates



An unexamined life is not worth living.

Socrates



Think not those faithful who praise all thy words and actions, but those who kindly reprove thy faults.

Socrates



Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, weak minds discuss people.

Socrates



Let him who would move the world first move himself.

Socrates



No man has the right to be an amateur in the matter of physical training. It is a shame for a man to grow old without seeing the beauty and strength of which his body is capable.

Socrates



Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.

Socrates



If you don't get what you want, you suffer; if you get what you don't want, you suffer; even when you get exactly what you want, you still suffer because you can't hold on to it forever. Your mind is your predicament. It wants to be free of change. Free of pain, free of the obligations of life and death. But change is law and no amount of pretending will alter that reality

Socrates



Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings so that you shall come easily by what others have labored hard for.

Socrates



I am not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world.

Socrates



Do not do to others what angers you if done to you by others.

Socrates



Prefer knowledge to wealth, for the one is transitory, the other perpetual.

Socrates



It is not living that matters, but living rightly.

Socrates



Falling down is not a failure. Failure comes when you stay where you have fallen.

Socrates



Be the kind of person that you want people to think you are.

Socrates



A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.

Socrates



Give me beauty in the inward soul; may the outward and the inward
man be at one.

Socrates



There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance.

Socrates



The mind is everything; what you think you become.

Socrates



We cannot live better than in seeking to become better.

Socrates



One day, someone came to find Socrates and said to him:

“Do you know what I just heard about your friend?”

A moment, replied Socrates. Before you tell me, I would like to test you the three sieves.

“The three sieves?”

“Yes, continued Socrates. Before telling anything about the others, it's good to take the time to filter what you mean. I call it the test of the three sieves. The first sieve is the truth. Have you checked if what you're going to tell me is true?”

“No, I just heard it.”

“Very good! So, you don't know if it's true. We continue with the second sieve, that of kindness. What you want to tell me about my friend, is it good?”

“Oh, no! On the contrary.”

“So, questioned Socrates, you want to tell me bad things about him and you're not even sure they're true? Maybe you can still pass the test of the third sieve, that of utility. Is it useful that I know what you're going to tell me about this friend?”

“No, really.”

“So, concluded Socrates, what you were going to tell me is neither true, nor good, nor useful. Why, then, did you want to tell me this?”

Socrates



Africa

It is not taboo for you to go for what you left behind.

African Proverb - Ghana



When he who does not know learns, he gets to know.

African Proverb - Ghana



This panorama of creation is from time immemorial, from God; God created things; he created the sun, the moon, and the stars, he created water and the wind; he created life, he created human beings, and he created death. He remains the same.

African Proverb - Ghana



It is in a good family that we have love and unity.

African Proverb - Ghana



It is when a frog dies that we see its (true) length.

African Proverb - Ghana



All peppers on the same plant don't ripen at the same time.

African Proverb - Ghana



He who wants to be a king in the future begins by learning how to serve.

African Proverb - Ghana



The foot of a hen steps on the child but it doesn't kill the child.

African Proverb - Ghana



Everybody has their own distinct destiny.

African Proverb - Ghana



God's destiny cannot be circumvented.

African Proverb - Ghana



God, there is something up there (in the heavens); let it come to me.

African Proverb - Ghana



Work on your reputation until it is established; then it will work for you.

African Proverb - Tunisia



A kind person is the one who is kind to strangers.

African Proverb - Congo



You are bad if you are good only to yourself.

African Proverb - Zimbabwe



It is the visitor who can clearly point out where your house leaks.

African Proverb - Malawi



Silence is also a form of speech.

African Proverb – Burkina Faso



Giving is not losing; it is keeping for tomorrow.

African Proverb – Zambia



When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers.

African Proverb - Zulu



Do not separate your mind from your tongue.

African Proverb - Egypt



He who does not ask questions learns nothing.

African Proverb - Gabon



You will not be beaten when you think before acting.

African Proverb - Kenya



What you sow is what you reap.

African Proverb - Cameroon



One who talks, thinks; but one who keeps silent, thinks more.

African Proverb - Uganda



The child looks everywhere and often see naught; but the old man,
sitting on the ground, sees everything.

African Proverb - Senegambia



If you know the beginning well, the end will not trouble you.

African Proverb - Senegambia



The child becomes an adult by himself, not by the others.

African Proverb - Congo



One day is in favor of you and another day against you.

African Proverb - Somalia



If you wait for tomorrow, tomorrow comes. If you don't wait for
tomorrow, tomorrow comes.

African Proverb



Knowledge is a garden. If it isn't cultivated, you can't harvest it.

African Proverb



A child that is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth.

African Proverb



If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.

African Proverb



If you ever thought you were too small to make a difference, you've never shared a bed with a mosquito.

African Proverb



The axe forgets; the tree remembers.

African Proverb



Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors.

African Proverb



Just because the lizard nods his head, doesn't mean he's in agreement.

African Proverb



Another's eye is not faithful like one's own.

African Proverb



If sentence is now passed on your neighbor, another time it will be passed on you.

African Proverb



The appearance of the wise differs from that of the fool.

African Proverb



One cannot lean upon emptiness.

African Proverb



A wise person doesn't fall down the same hill twice.

African Proverb



In the moment of crisis, the wise build bridges, and the foolish build dams.

African Proverb



Persia

With an open mind, seek and listen to all the highest ideals. Consider the most enlightened thoughts. Then choose your path, person by person, each for oneself.

Zoroaster



One need not scale the heights of the heavens, nor travel along the highways of the world to find God. With purity of mind and holiness of heart one can find Him in one's own heart.

Zoroaster



Always meet petulance with gentleness and perverseness with kindness. A gentle hand can lead even an elephant by a hair. Reply to thine enemy with gentleness.

Zoroaster



He who sows the ground with care and diligence acquires a greater stock of religious merit than he could gain by the repetition of ten thousand prayers.

Zoroaster



Do not to others what you do not wish done to yourself; and wish for others too. What you desire and long for, for yourself. This is the whole of righteousness, heed it well.

Zoroaster



That which is good for all and any one, for whomsoever- that is good for me... What I hold good for self, I should for all. Only Law Universal is true law.

Zoroaster



All flows out from the Deity, and all must be absorbed in Him again.

Zoroaster



Excessive liberty and excessive servitude are equally dangerous, and produce nearly the same effect.

Zoroaster



Turn yourself not away from three best things: Good thought, good word, and good deed.

Zoroaster



Your good thoughts, good words and good deeds alone will be your intercessors. Nothing more will be wanted. They alone will serve you as a safe pilot to the harbor of Heaven, as a safe guide to the gates of paradise.

Zoroaster



Taking the first footstep with a good thought, the second with a good word, and the third with a good deed, I entered paradise.

Zoroaster



Doing good to others is not a duty. It is a joy, for it increases your own health and happiness.

Zoroaster



Suffer no anxiety, for he who is a sufferer of anxiety becomes regardless of enjoyment of the world and the spirit, and contraction happens to his body and soul.

Zoroaster



A reflective, contented mind is the best possession.

Zoroaster



Seek your happiness in the happiness of all.

Zoroaster



Let us be such as help the life of the future.

Zoroaster



Unfold Yourself within me, O Lord. Grant me strength of character through right-mindedness. Through the holiest spirit, O Lord, grant me goodness as a reward for prayer. Grant me a life full of vigor through Truth, and may the pure Mind look after me.

Yasna



Hearken with your ears to these best counsels, Reflect upon them with illumined judgment. Let each one choose his path with that freedom of choice each must have at great events.

Yasna



Prosperity belongs to the one who brings others to prosperity.

Yasna



Everything that is created was first a thought. So let your thoughts be good. Good thoughts are those that are in harmony with the wisdom in creation (nature). Let your good thoughts be known through good words. For that's when creation first comes into being.

Yasna



Success should always call for showing greater kindness, generosity, and justice; only people lost in the darkness treat it as an occasion for greater greed.

Cyrus the Great



We love ourselves notwithstanding our faults, and we ought to love our friends in like manner.

Cyrus the Great



Diversity in counsel, unity in command

Cyrus the Great



Brevity is the soul of command. Too much talking suggests desperation on the part of the leader. Speak shortly, decisively and to the point – and couch your desires in such natural logic that no one can raise objections. Then move on.

Cyrus the Great



Tanakh

Kindness and truth shall not leave you; bind them upon your neck, inscribe them upon the tablet of your heart; and find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 3:3-4



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely upon your own understanding. Know Him in all your ways, and He will direct your paths. Don't be wise in your sight; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

Proverbs 3:5-7



Fortunate is the man who has found wisdom and a man who gives forth discernment, for its commerce is better than the commerce of silver, and its gain [is better] than fine gold; it is more precious than pearls, and all your desirable things cannot be compared to it. Length of days is in its right hand; in its left hand are riches and honor. Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace. It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and those who draw near it are fortunate.

Proverbs 3:13-18



Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life.

Proverbs 4:23



Let your eyes look forward, and let your eyelids look straight ahead of you.

Proverbs 4:25



Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

Proverbs 6:5



Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!
It has no commander,
no overseer or ruler,
yet it stores its provisions in summer
and gathers its food at harvest.

Proverbs 6:6-8



As face answers to face in water, so does one man's heart to another.

Proverbs 27:19



The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and the knowledge of the holy ones is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10



He who loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is brutish.

Proverbs 12:1



From all toil there is some gain, but idle chatter is pure loss.

Proverbs 14:23



He who oppresses a poor man blasphemes his Maker, but he who favors a poor man honors Him.

Proverbs 14:31



How much better is it to acquire wisdom than gold! And to acquire understanding is preferable to silver.

Proverbs 16:16



Before destruction comes pride, and before stumbling [comes] a haughty spirit.

Proverbs 16:18



A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17



Hearken to advice and accept discipline, in order that you may be wise in your later years.

Proverbs 19:20



By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Proverbs 24:3-4



Seven times the righteous man falls and gets up, while the wicked are tripped by one misfortune.

Proverbs 24:16



As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Proverbs 27:17



A fool vents all his anger: but a wise man keeping it in subdues it.

Proverbs 29:11



Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

Proverbs 29:25



An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, and a person whose way is straight is an abomination to a wicked man.

Proverbs 29:27



Did I not command you, be strong and have courage, do not fear and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



Do not be over-righteous, and do not be over-wise. Why should you become desolate?

Ecclesiastes 7:16



But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 4:29



I, the Merciful Eternal, am also your Almighty, as you have witnessed when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Therefore you must acknowledge the sovereignty of the Almighty as your Benefactor and Redeemer.

You shall not possess any gods besides Me, not even such as are made by someone else.

You shall not make for yourselves, for the purpose of worship, any sculpture, nor any image of anything that is in heaven above, such as angels and heavenly bodies, or of anything that is in the water beneath the earth, such as the bottom of the ocean and what dwells there.

You shall not worship them, nor offer sacrifice to them: for I, the Eternal, your Almighty, am an Almighty Who retaliates, but I also take in consideration the evil influence of the sins of the fathers upon the children even to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, and show kindness indefinitely to those who influence their children to love Me and to keep My commandments.

You shall not swear by the name of the Eternal your Almighty in vain, to affirm that which is evident, and in particular the Eternal will not leave any one unpunished who swears falsely by His Name.

Always remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy through prayer and benediction. Six days shall you labor in the fields, and do all your work for your physical well-being, but the seventh day must be set aside as a Sabbath to the Eternal, your Almighty. On that day you shall not do, nor produce any work, not you, the adults, nor

your minor son, nor your minor daughter, nor your man-servant, or maidservant, whether they be Israelites or not, nor your cattle; nor the alien who resides within the borders of your state. For in six days the Eternal made heaven and earth and sea, and all that is in them, and he desisted on the seventh day. Therefore the Eternal declared the Sabbath day as blessed, and hallowed it above the other days.

After the duty to your Creator, you owe a duty to your parents. Therefore honor your father and your mother, by giving them respect, obedience and love, both while they are alive and after their death, and your reward will be that you will live long on the earth which the Eternal your Almighty gave you, as well as in the world to come.

The Eternal has created man in His image. Therefore you shall not destroy His handiwork by murdering a human being. There shall be no illicit relations between the sexes. Therefore you shall not profane the sacred covenant of marriage. You shall not steal, cheat, embezzle, forge, or deceive. You shall not accept an offer to be a false witness against your fellowman, nor slander, defame, nor misrepresent.

Do not act upon your impulse to covet your fellow-man's house, do not set your heart upon your fellow-man's wife, nor on his man-servant, nor on his maid-servant, on his ox, on his donkey, or upon anything which belongs to your fellow-man.

The Ten Commandments Deuteronomy 5:2-14



God is our refuge and stronghold
a help in trouble, very near.

Therefore we are not afraid
though the earth reels,
though mountains topple into the sea—

its waters rage and foam;
in its swell mountains quake.

There is a river whose streams gladden God's city,
the holy dwelling-place of the Most High.

God is in its midst, it will not be toppled;
by daybreak God will come to its aid.

Nations rage, kingdoms topple;
at the sound of His thunder the earth dissolves.

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our haven.

Come and see what the LORD has done,
how He has wrought desolation on the earth.

He puts a stop to wars throughout the earth,
breaking the bow, snapping the spear,
consigning wagons to the flames.

“Desist! Realize that I am God!
I dominate the nations;
I dominate the earth.”

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our haven.

Psalms 46



My God, the soul which you have placed within me is pure. You have created it; You have formed it; You have breathed it into me. You preserve it within me; You will take it from me, and restore it to me in the hereafter. So long as the soul is within me, I offer thanks before You, Lord my God and God of my fathers, Master of all creatures, Lord of all souls. Blessed are You, Lord, who restores souls to the dead.

Prayer from Talmud



New Testament

For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:43-45



For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his soul?

Mark 8:36



Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7



Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21



Do not judge others, so that you will not be judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with what measure you measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5



For everyone who asks receives; those who seek find; and to those who knock, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:8



Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12



A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Matthew 12:35



That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’”

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Matthew 13:1-17



Al-Qur'an

Surah Al-Fatiha

(1) In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(2) ALL PRAISE is due to Allah alone, the Sustainer of all the worlds, (3) the Most Gracious, the Dispenser of Grace, (4) Lord of the Day of Judgment!

(5) Thee alone do we worship; and unto Thee alone do we turn for aid. (6) Guide us the straight way (7) the way of those upon whom Thou hast bestowed Thy blessings, not of those who have been condemned [by Thee], nor of those who go astray!

Surah 1 - The Opening



Surah Al-Taghabun

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) ALL THAT IS in the heavens and all that is on earth extols Allah's limitless glory: His is all dominion, and to Him all praise is due; and He has the power to will anything. (2) He it is who has created you: and among you are such as deny this truth, and among you are such as believe [in it]. And Allah sees all that you do.

(3) He has created the heavens and the earth in accordance with [an inner] truth, and has formed you - and formed you so well; and with Him is your journey's end. (4) He knows all that is in the heavens and on earth; and He knows all that you keep secret as well as all that you bring into the open: for Allah has full knowledge of what is in the hearts [of men].

(5) HAVE THE STORIES of those who, in earlier times, refused to acknowledge the truth never yet come within your ken? [They denied it -] and so they had to taste the evil outcome of their own doings, with [more] grievous suffering awaiting them [in the life to come]: (6) this, because time and again there came unto them their apostles with all evidence of the truth, but they [always] replied, "Shall mere mortal men be our guides?" And so they denied the truth and turned away. But Allah was not in need [of them]: for Allah is self-sufficient, ever to be praised.

(7) They who are bent on denying the truth claim that they will never be raised from the dead! Say: "Yea, by my Sustainer! Most surely will you be raised from the dead, and then, most surely, will

you be made to understand what you did [in life]! For, easy is this for Allah!”

(8) Believe then, [O men,] in Allah and His Apostle, and in the light [of revelation] which We have bestowed [on you] from on high! And Allah is fully aware of all that you do. (9) [Think of] the time when He shall gather you all together unto the Day of the [Last] Gathering - that Day of Loss and Gain! For, as for him who shall have believed in Allah and done what is just and right, He will [on that Day] efface his bad deeds, and will admit him into gardens through which running waters flow, therein to abide beyond the count of time: that will be a triumph supreme!

(10) But as for those who are bent on denying the truth and on giving the lie to Our messages – they are destined for the fire, therein to abide: and how vile a journey's end!

(11) NO CALAMITY can ever befall [man] unless it be by Allah's leave: hence, whoever believes in Allah guides his [own] heart [towards this truth]; and Allah has full knowledge of everything. (12) Pay heed, then, unto Allah, and pay heed unto the Apostle; and if you turn away, [know that] Our Apostle's only duty is a clear delivery of this message:

(13) Allah - there is no deity save Him! In Allah then let the believers place their trust.

(14) O YOU who have attained to faith! Behold, some of your spouses and your children are enemies unto you: so beware of them! But if you pardon [their faults] and forbear, and forgive - then, behold, Allah will be much-forgiving, a dispenser of grace. (15)

Your worldly goods and your children are but a trial and a temptation, whereas with Allah there is a tremendous reward.

(16) Remain, then, conscious of Allah as best you can, and listen [to Him], and pay heed. And spend in charity for the good of your own selves: for, such as from their own covetousness are saved it is they, they that shall attain to a happy state!

(17) If you offer up to Allah a goodly loan, He will amply repay you for it, and will forgive you your sins: for Allah is ever responsive to gratitude, forbearing, (18) knowing all that is beyond the reach of a created being's perception as well as all that can be witnessed by a creature's senses or mind - the Almighty, the Wise!

Surah 64 – Loss and Gain



Surah Al-Infitar

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) WHEN THE SKY is cleft asunder, (2) and when the stars are scattered, (3) and when the seas burst beyond their bounds, (4) and when the graves are overturned (5) every human being will [at last] comprehend, what he has sent ahead and what he has held back [in this world].

(6) O MAN! What is it that lures thee away from thy bountiful Sustainer, (7) who has created thee, and formed thee in accordance with what thou art meant to be, and shaped thy nature in just proportions, (8) having put thee together in whatever form He willed [thee to have]? (9) Nay, [O men,] but you [are lured away from Allah whenever you are tempted to] give the lie to [Allah's] Judgment!

(10) And yet, verily, there are ever-watchful forces over you, (11) noble, recording, (12) aware of whatever you do! (13) Behold, [in the life to come] the truly virtuous: will indeed be in bliss, (14) whereas, behold, the wicked will indeed be in a blazing fire (15) [a fire] which they shall enter on Judgment Day, (16) and which they shall not [be able to] evade.

(17) And what could make thee conceive what that Judgment Day will be? (18) And once again: What could make thee conceive what that Judgment Day will be? (19) [It will be] a Day when no human being shall be of the least avail to another human being: for on that Day [it will become manifest that] all sovereignty is Allah's alone

Surah 82 – The Cleaving Asunder



Surah Ash-Shams

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) CONSIDER the sun and its radiant brightness, (2) and the moon as it reflects the sun! (3) Consider the day as it reveals the world, (4) and the night as it veils it darkly!

(5) Consider the sky and its wondrous make, (6) and the earth and all its expanse! (7) Consider the human self, and how it is formed in accordance with what it is meant to be, (8) and how it is imbued with moral failings as well as with consciousness of Allah! (9) To a happy state shall indeed attain he who causes this [self] to grow in purity, (10) and truly lost is he who buries it [in darkness].

(11) TO [THIS] TRUTH gave the lie, in their overweening arrogance, [the tribe of] Thamud, (12) when that most hapless wretch from among them rushed forward [to commit his evil deed], (13) although Allah's apostle had told them, "It is a she-camel belonging to Allah, so let her drink [and do her no harm]!" (14) But they gave him the lie, and cruelly slaughtered her - whereupon their Sustainer visited them with utter destruction for this their sin, destroying them all alike: (15) for none [of them] had any fear of what might befall them.

Surah 91 - The Sun



Surah Al-Layl (The Night)

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) CONSIDER the night as it veils [the earth] in darkness, (2) and the day as it rises bright! (3) Consider the creation of the male and the female! (4) Verily, [O men,] you aim at most divergent ends! (5) Thus, as for him who gives [to others] and is conscious of Allah, (6) and believes in the truth of the ultimate good - (7) for him shall We make easy the path towards [ultimate] ease.

(8) But as for him who is niggardly, and thinks that he is self-sufficient, (9) and calls the ultimate good a lie (10) for him shall We make easy the path towards hardship: (11) and what will his wealth avail him when he goes down [to his grave]?

(12) BEHOLD, it is indeed for Us to grace [you] with guidance; (13) and, behold, Ours is [the dominion over] the life to come as well as [over] this earlier part [of your life]: (14) and so I warn you of the raging fire - (15) [the fire] which none shall have to endure but that most hapless wretch (16) who gives the lie to the truth and turns away [from it].

(17) For, distant from it shall remain he who is truly conscious of Allah: (18) he that spends his possessions [on others] so that he might grow in purity (19) not as payment for favors received, (20) but only out of a longing for the countenance of his Sustainer, the All-Highest: (21) and such, indeed, shall in time be well-pleased.

Surah 92 - The Night



Surah Ad-Duha

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) CONSIDER the bright morning hours, (2) and the night when it grows still and dark. (3) Thy Sustainer has not forsaken thee, nor does He scorn thee: (4) for, indeed, the life to come will be better for thee than this earlier part [of thy life]!

(5) And, indeed, in time will thy Sustainer grant thee [what thy heart desires], and thou shalt be well-pleased. (6) Has He not found thee an orphan, and given thee shelter? (7) And found thee lost on thy way, and guided thee? (8) And found thee in want, and given thee sufficiency?

(9) Therefore, the orphan shalt thou never wrong, (10) and him that seeks [thy] help shalt thou never chide, (11) and of thy Sustainer's blessings shalt thou [ever] speak.

Surah 93 - The Bright Morning Hours



Surah Ash-Sharh

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) HAVE WE NOT opened up thy heart,¹ (2) and lifted from thee the burden (3) that had weighed so heavily on thy back? (4) And [have We not] raised thee high in dignity? (5) And, behold, with every hardship comes ease: (6) verily, with every hardship comes ease!

(7) Hence, when thou art freed [from distress], remain steadfast, (8) and unto thy Sustainer turn with love.

Surah 94 - The Opening Up of the Heart



Surah At-Tin

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) CONSIDER the fig and the olive, (2) and Mount Sinai, (3) and this land secure! (4) Verily, We create man in the best conformation; (5) and thereafter We reduce him to the lowest of low (6) excepting only such as attain to faith and do good works: and theirs shall be a reward unending! (7) What, then, [O man,] could henceforth cause thee to give the lie to this moral law? (8) Is not Allah the most just of judges?

Surah 95 - The Fig



Surah Al-Alaq

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) READ in the name of thy Sustainer, who has created (2) created man out of a germ-cell! (3) Read - for thy Sustainer is the Most Bountiful One (4) who has taught [man] the use of the pen (5) taught man what he did not know!

(6) Nay, verily, man becomes grossly overweening (7) whenever he believes himself to be self-sufficient: (8) for, behold, unto thy Sustainer all must return.

(9) HAST THOU ever considered him who tries to prevent (10) a servant [of Allah] from praying? (11) Hast thou considered whether he is on the right way, (12) or is concerned with God-consciousness?

(13) Hast thou considered whether he may [not] be giving the lie to the truth and turning his back [upon it]? (14) Does he, then, not know that Allah sees [all]?

(15) Nay, if he desist not, We shall most surely drag him down upon his forehead (16) the lying, rebellious forehead! (17) and then let him summon [to his aid] the counsels of his own [spurious] wisdom, (18) [the while] We shall summon the forces of heavenly chastisement!

(19) Nay, pay thou no heed to him, but prostrate thyself [before Allah] and draw close [unto Him]!

Surah 96 – The Germ Cell



Surah Al-Zalzalah

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) WHEN THE EARTH quakes with her [last] mighty quaking, (2) and [when] the earth yields up her burdens, (3) and man cries out, “What has happened to her?” - (4) on that Day will she recount all her tidings, (5) as thy Sustainer will have inspired her to do!

(6) On that Day will all men come forward, cut off from one another, to be shown their [past] deeds. (7) And so, he who shall have done an atom's weight of good, shall behold it; (8) and he who shall have done an atom's weight of evil, shall behold it.

Surah 99 – The Earthquake



Surah At-Takathur

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) YOU ARE OBSESSED by greed for more and more (2) until you go down to your graves. (3) Nay, in time you will come to understand! (4) And once again: Nay, in time you will come to understand! (5) Nay, if you could but understand [it] with an understanding [born] of certainty, (6) you would indeed, most surely, behold the blazing fire [of hell]! (7) In the end you will indeed, most surely, behold it with the eye of certainty: (8) and on that Day you will most surely be called to account for [what you did with] the boon of life!

Surah 102 – Greed for More and More



Surah Al-Asr

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) CONSIDER the flight of time! (2) Verily, man is bound to lose himself (3) unless he be of those who attain to faith, and do good works, and enjoin upon one another the keeping to truth, and enjoin upon one another patience in adversity.

Surah 103 – The Flight of Time



Surah Al-Humazah

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) WOE unto every slanderer, fault-finder! (2) [Woe unto him] who amasses wealth and counts it a safeguard, (3) thinking that his wealth will make him live forever! (4) Nay, but [in the life to come such as] he shall indeed be abandoned to crushing torment! (5) And what could make thee conceive what that crushing torment will be? (6) A fire kindled by Allah, (7) which will rise over the [guilty] hearts: (8) verily, it will close in upon them (9) in endless columns!

Surah 104 – The Slanderer



Surah Al-Ma'un

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) HAST THOU ever considered [the kind of man] who gives the lie to all moral law? (2) Behold, it is this [kind of man] that thrusts the orphan away, (3) and feels no urge to feed the needy. (4) Woe, then, unto those praying ones (5) whose hearts from their prayer are remote - (6) those who want only to be seen and praised, (7) and, withal, deny all assistance [to their fellow-men]!

Surah 107 – Assistance



Surah Al-Kawthar

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) BEHOLD, We have bestowed upon thee good in abundance: (2) hence, pray unto thy Sustainer [alone], and sacrifice [unto Him alone]. (3) Verily, he that hates thee has indeed been cut off [from all that is good]!

Surah 108 – Good in Abundance



Surah Al-Kafirun

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) SAY: “O you who deny the truth! (2) I do not worship that which you worship, (3) and neither do you worship that which I worship! (4) And I will not worship that which you have [ever] worshipped, (5) and neither will you [ever] worship that which I worship. (6) Unto you, your moral law, and unto me, mine!”

Surah 109 – Those Who Deny the Truth



Surah Al-Ikhlās

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) SAY: “He is the One God: (2) Allah the Eternal, the Uncaused Cause of All Being. (3) He begets not, and neither is He begotten; (4) and there is nothing that could be compared with Him.”

Surah 112 – The Declaration of God’s Perfection



Surah Al-Falaq

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) SAY: “I seek refuge with the Sustainer of the rising dawn, (2) from the evil of aught that He has created, (3) and from the evil of the black darkness whenever it descends, (4) and from the evil of all human beings bent on occult endeavors, (5) and from the evil of the envious when he envies.”

Surah 113 – The Rising Sun



Surah An-Nas

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace:

(1) SAY: "I seek refuge with the Sustainer of men, - (2) the Sovereign of men, (3) the God of men, (4) from the evil of the whispering, elusive tempter (5) who whispers in the hearts of men - (6) from all [temptation to evil by] invisible forces as well as men."

Surah 114 – Men



Closing Traditions

One who proceeds on a path in the pursuit of knowledge, God makes him proceed therewith on a path to the Garden (Paradise). And, verily, the angels spread their wings for the seekers of knowledge out of delight. Verily, every creature of the heaven and the earth asks forgiveness for the seeker of knowledge, even the fish in the sea. The merit of the ‘alim (the learned) over the ‘abid (the devout) is like the merit of the moon over the stars on a full-moon night. The learned are the heirs of the prophets, for the prophets did not leave behind a legacy of wealth but that of knowledge. So whoever partakes of it derives a plenteous benefit.”

Prophet Muhammad - al-Kafi



God has created some people for settling the others’ needs. They like doing favors and consider generosity as glory. God surely loves the nobilities of character.

Prophet Muhammad - Tuhaf al-Uqul



“Each intelligent and mindful individual of my Ummah is bound of four matters.”

“What are they, God’s messenger?” asked the companions.

The Prophet explained, “They are to listen to knowledge, retain, spread, and act upon it.”

Prophet Muhammad - Tuhaf al-Uqul



Imam Ali recited the verse:

O Man! What is it that lures you away from your Lord, the Most Gracious One. (Qur'an, 82:6)

Then he said:

The addressee (in this verse) is devoid of argument and his excuse is most deceptive. He is detaining himself in ignorance.

O man! What has emboldened you to (commit) sins, what has deceived you about your Allah and what has made you satisfied with the destruction of yourself? Is there no cure for your ailment or no awakening from your sleep? Do you not have pity on yourself as you have on others? Generally, when you see anyone exposed to the heat of the sun you cover him with shade, or if you see anyone afflicted with grief that pains his body you weep out of pity for him.

What has then made you patient over your own disease, what has made you firm in your own afflictions, and what has consoled you from weeping over yourself although your life is the most precious of all lives to you, and why does not the fear of an ailment that may befall you in the night keep you wakeful although you lie on the way to Allah's wrath due to your sins?

You should cure the disease of languor in your heart by determination, and the sleep of neglectfulness in your eyes by wakefulness. Be obedient to Allah, and love His remembrance, and picture to yourself that you are running away while He is approaching you. He is calling you to His forgiveness and concealing your faults with His kindness, while you are fleeing away from Him towards others.

Certainly, Great is Allah the powerful, Who is so generous, and how humble and weak are you and still so bold to commit His disobedience although you live in His protection and undergo changes of life in the expanse of His kindness. He does not refuse you His kindness and does not remove His protection

from you. In fact, you have not been without His kindness even for a moment, whether it be a favor that He conferred upon you or a sin of yours that He has concealed or a calamity that He has warded off from you.

What is your idea about Him if you had obeyed Him? By Allah, if this had been the case with two persons equal in power and matching in might (one being inattentive and the other showering favors upon you) then you would have been the first to adjudge yourself to be of bad behavior and evil deeds

I truthfully say that the world has not deceived you but you have had yourself deceived by it. The world had opened to you the curtains and divulged to you (everything) equally. And in all that it foretold you about the troubles befalling your bodies and the decay in your power, it has been too true and faithful in promise, and did not speak a lie to you or deceive you.

There are many who advise you about it but they are blamed, and speak the truth about it but they are opposed. If you understand the world by means of dilapidated houses and forlorn abodes, then with your good understanding and far reaching power of drawing lessons you will find it like one who is kind over you and cautious about you. It is good abode for him who does not like it as an abode, and a good place of stay for him who does not regard it a permanent home for stay. Only those who run away from this world today will be regarded virtuous tomorrow.

When the earthquake occurs, the Day of Resurrection approaches with all its severities, the people of every worshipping place cling to it, all the devotees cling to the object of their devotion and all the followers cling to their leader. Then on that day even the opening of an eye in the air and the sound of a footstep on the ground will be assigned its due through His Justice and His Equity. On that day many an argument will prove void and a contention for excuses will stand rejected.

Therefore, you should now adopt for yourself the course with which your excuse may hold good and your plea may be proved. Take from the transient things of this world that which will stay for you (in the next world), provide for your journey, keep (your) gaze on the brightness of deliverance and keep ready the saddles (for setting off).

Imam Ali – Nahjul Balagha Sermon 220



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