A Book of Proverbs

Wisdom of the Ages from Around the World

Compiled by Jacquelyn Lynn
Photography by Jerry D. Clement
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INTRODUCTION

A proverb is a brief saying or adage that gives advice about how we should live or that expresses a belief or opinion that is generally thought to be true. Proverbs tend to be simple and practical, and are based on common sense.

Proverbs generally reflect cultural values and the broad human experience. They may be contradictory, as in “Look before you leap” and “He who hesitates is lost.”

Proverbs are also important religious texts, with the Bible’s Book of Proverbs being perhaps the most obvious and best known example.

I have been gathering proverbs for years from a variety of sources. When I realized how many I had, the idea of a book with proverbs from around the world was born. My husband, Jerry Clement, and I began working together to figure out the best way to present the words with appropriate illustrations.

The proverbs are organized by topic; the sections are arranged alphabetically. While each section begins with a proverb from the Bible, the remaining maxims are presented in a random order.

As I was collecting the proverbs, I noticed that different sources gave different credit to the same saying, such as attributing the same saying as a Chinese proverb in one place and an American Indian proverb in another. Because it would be difficult, if not impossible, to thoroughly and accurately research each item, I chose the source that was credited the first time I found it. And when I found proverbs that were very similar, I included both.

Here’s a bit of trivia that I didn’t know until I began writing this introduction: The study of proverbs is paremiology; paremiography is the collection of proverbs.

This book may technically be paremiography, but in reality it has been a true labor of love. May these wisdom and images enrich every aspect of your life.

Jacquelyn Lynn

Bonus! To show our appreciation for your purchase of A Book of Proverbs, we’d like to send you a collection of Inspirational Quotes on Human Potential absolutely free. Just go to createteachinspire.com/human-potential for the link to download the file.
Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.

*Proverbs 3:27*

Who does nothing can do nothing wrong.

*German Proverb*

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

*Arabian Proverb*

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention.

*Japanese Proverb*

Vision with action is a daydream; action without vision is a nightmare.

*Japanese Proverb*

You never plough a field by turning it over in your mind.

*Irish Proverb*

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

*Chinese Proverb*
The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.  

*Chinese Proverb*

He who lives by hope will die by hunger.  

*Italian Proverb*

The very thing one likes, one does well.  

*Japanese Proverb*

Dwell not upon thy weariness, thy strength shall be according to the measure of thy desire.  

*Arab Proverb*

Go and wake up your luck.  

*Persian Proverb*

Nodding the head does not row the boat.  

*Irish Proverb*

Elbow grease is the best polish.  

*English Proverb*

Those who travel unworn paths find the rarest flowers.  

*Hindu Proverb*

First find the ford, then cross the river.  

*Armenian Proverb*

There are hundreds of paths up the mountain, all leading to the same place, so it doesn’t matter which path you take. The only person wasting time is the one who runs around the mountain, telling everyone that his or her path is wrong.  

*Hindu Proverb*
If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking.

*Buddhist Proverb*

Break the leg of a bad habit.

*Puerto Rican Proverb*

If there is no wind, row.

*Latin Proverb*

The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.

*Chinese Proverb*

Talk doesn’t cook rice.

*Chinese Proverb*
A BOOK OF PROVERBS

CHALLENGES

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

*Proverbs 17:17*

Adversity is the stuff that shows whether you are what you thought you were.

*American Proverb*

Always a valley before a hill.

*American Proverb*

One may go a long way after one is tired.

*French Proverb*

However long the night, the dawn will break.

*African Proverb*

Adversity is the foundation of virtue.

*Japanese Proverb*

Even a lion has to defend himself against flies.

*German Proverb*

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

*Chinese Proverb*
CHARACTER & REPUTATION

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

Proverbs 22:1

Everyone is kneaded out of the same dough, but not baked in the same oven.

Jewish Proverb

Arrogance is a kingdom without a crown.

American Proverb

Who gossips to you will gossip of you.

Puerto Rican Proverb

Listen to what they say of others and you will know what they say of you.

Cuban Proverb

Reputation is what you are in the light; character is what you are in the dark.

American Proverb

A man is judged by his deeds, not by his words.

Russian Proverb

The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour.

Japanese Proverb

He is not an honest man who has burned his tongue and does not tell the company that the soup is hot.

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

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

We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.  
*Native American Proverb*

We judge others by their acts, but ourselves by our intentions.  
*American Proverb*

Like a fence, character cannot be strengthened by whitewash.  
*American Proverb*

He who lies in the mud will rise dirty.  
*Gaelic Proverb*

It is not easy to straighten in the oak the crook that grew in the sapling.  
*American Proverb*

Life is for one generation; a good name is forever.  
*Japanese Proverb*

Where you will sit when you are old shows where you stood in youth.  
*Yoruba Proverb*

The hammer shatters glass but forges steel.  
*Russian Proverb*

A good example is like a bell that calls many to church.  
*Danish Proverb*
Be good yourself, and the world will be good.

Hindu Proverb

The wolf loses his teeth, but not his inclinations.

Spanish Proverb

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

Pennsylvania Dutch Proverb

The best thing about a man is his dog.

French Proverb

A fool judges people by the presents they give him.

Chinese Proverb

Who does not thank for little will not thank for much.

Estonian Proverb

If you act like an ass, don’t get insulted if people ride you.

Yiddish Proverb

Don’t shake hands too eagerly.

Greek Proverb
CHILDREN

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

*Proverbs 22:6*

The child that’s left to himself will put his mother to shame.

*Gaelic Proverb*

A baby is an angel whose wings decrease as his legs increase.

*French Proverb*

You have a lifetime to work, but children are only young once.

*Polish Proverb*

Parents are the first teachers of the children.

*Burmese Proverb*

The ardor of parental affection consumes the heart with its fire.

*American Proverb*

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

*Scottish Proverb*

A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.

*Chinese Proverb*

A child’s tear rends the heavens.

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

Native American Proverb

The laughter of a child is the light of a house.

African Proverb

The ones that matter the most are the children.

Lakota Proverb

Each generation will reap what the former generation has sown.

Chinese Proverb

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

Hebrew Proverb
CONSCIENCE

Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”?

Proverbs 20:9

A clear conscience sleeps during thunder.

Jamaican Proverb

You can outdistance that which is running after you but not what is running inside you.

Rwandan Proverb

No one else can represent your conscience.

Native American Proverb

Conscience is the voice of the soul.

Polish Proverb

There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.

French Proverb

It is worse to be sick in the soul than in body.

Polish Proverb

Suspicion always haunts the guilty party.

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

Dutch Proverb

You may find the worst enemy or best friend in yourself.  

English Proverb
COURAGE & STRENGTH

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

Proverbs 31:25

Will is power.

French Proverb

Talking about bulls is not the same as facing them in the ring.

Mexican Proverb

Courage is fear that has said its prayers.

American Proverb

It is easy to be brave from a distance.

Native American Proverb

It is better to be a coward for a minute than dead for the rest of your life.

Irish Proverb

The one who sits on the ground need not fear a fall.

Czech Proverb

A single arrow is easily broken, but not ten in a bundle.

Japanese Proverb

When the webs of the spider join, they can trap a lion.

Ethiopian Proverb
Those who bully the weak are cowards before the strong.  

Better bend than break.  

A silent man is not a conquered man.  

*Chinese Proverb*  

*Scottish Proverb*  

*Russian Proverb*
DREAMS & GOALS

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverbs 21:5

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

American Proverb

Do not look to the ground for your next step; greatness lies with those who look to the horizon.

Norwegian Proverb

He who doesn’t look ahead remains behind.

Mexican Proverb

Those who wish to shine always find a song.

Swedish Proverb

By asking for the impossible we obtain the possible.

Italian Proverb

Ambition is putting a ladder against the sky.

American Proverb

You already possess everything necessary to become great.

Native American Crow Proverb
If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed.

*Chinese Proverb*

All dreams spin out from the same web.

*Native American Proverb*

No one has an exclusive on opportunity. When the sun rises, it rises for everyone.

*Chinese Proverb*

If you stop every time a dog barks, your road will never end.

*Arabian Proverb*

The whole world is a dream, and death the interpreter.

*Yiddish Proverb*
**EDUCATION**

*Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.*

*Proverbs 4:13*

Learning is like rowing upstream: not to advance is to drop back.

*Chinese Proverb*

Instruction in youth is like engraving in stone.

*Columbian Proverb*

As we live, so we learn.

*Yiddish Proverb*

One day teaches the other.

*Lithuanian Proverb*

Everything in life comes to you as a teacher. Pay attention. Learn quickly.

*Cherokee Proverb*

Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I’ll understand.

*American Indian Proverb*

If you wish to learn the highest truths, begin with the alphabet.

*Japanese Proverb*
Learning without thinking is labor lost; thinking without learning is dangerous.

*Chinese Proverb*

Many things are lost for want of not asking

*English Proverb*

He understands badly who listens badly.

*Welsh Proverb*
Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.  
Proverbs 3:3

Danger past, God forgotten.  
Scottish Proverb

The Lord will drench you with His showers, but He will dry you with His sun.  
Czech Proverb

May the Lord grant me a sword and no need to use it.  
Czech Proverb

Prayer is food for the soul.  
American Proverb

Those who love in the Lord never see each other for the last time.  
German Proverb

When need is greatest, God is nearest.  
German Proverb

 Whoever enjoys his life is doing the Creator’s will.  
Jewish Proverb

For the birds that cannot soar, God has provided low branches.  
Turkish Proverb
God gives us the nuts, but He does not crack them.

*German Proverb*

The words of God are not like the oak leaf which dies and falls to the earth, but like the pine tree which stays green forever.

*Native American Proverb*

There is no death, only a change of worlds.

*Native American Proverb*

Since God could not be everywhere, he created mothers.

*Jewish Proverb*

The net of Heaven is large and wide, but it lets nothing through.

*Chinese Proverb*

Call on God, but row away from the rocks.

*Indian Proverb*
A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

*Proverbs 16:28*

It takes two to make a quarrel but only one to end it.

*Nicaraguan Proverb*

Choose your friends like your books, few but choice.

*American Proverb*

Hold a true friend with both your hands.

*Nigerian Proverb*

Injure others, injure yourself.

*Chinese Proverb*

One foe is too many and a hundred friends are too few.

*Native American Proverb*

Only your real friends will tell you when your face is dirty.

*Sicilian Proverb*

The best mirror is a friend’s eye.

*Gaelic Proverb*

You will never have a friend if you must have one without faults.

*Italian Proverb*
A friend to all is a friend to none.

Polish Proverb

True friendship is one soul shared by two bodies.

Mexican Proverb

Blessed is the man who has friends, but woe to him who needs them.

Czech Proverb

Never drop the friends you made on the way up. You may need them on the way down.

American Proverb

A good friend will fit you like ring to finger.

Venezuelan Proverb

It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.

Irish Proverb

Tell me with whom you travel, and I’ll tell you who you are.

German Proverb

Be patient with a bad neighbor: He may move or face misfortune.

Egyptian Proverb

Write injuries in sand, kindnesses in marble.

French Proverb

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

American Proverb
A good lawyer makes a bad neighbor.  

*Italian Proverb*

The man who strikes first admits that his ideas have given out.  

*Chinese Proverb*

What you dislike for yourself do not like for me.  

*Spanish Proverb*

The butterfly that flies among the thorns will tear its wings.  

*African Proverb*

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

*Chinese Proverb*

Before one replies, one must be present.  

*African Proverb*

Deal with the faults of others as gently as your own.  

*Chinese Proverb*

Hearts may agree though the heads differ.  

*American Proverb*

The spider and the fly can’t make a bargain.  

*Jamaican Proverb*

Old praise dies unless you feed it.  

*English Proverb*

If you live in the river, you should make friends with the crocodiles.  

*Indian Proverb*
When you go to a donkey’s house, don’t talk about ears.

*Jamaican Proverb*

Better a lie that heals than a truth that wounds.

*Czech Proverb*
A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

_Proverbs 11:25_

Take only what you need and leave the land as you found it.

_Native American Proverb_

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

_Mennonite Proverb_

If you have much, give of your wealth; if you have little, give of your heart.

_Arab Proverb_

Self-help is the best help.

_Polish Proverb_

Be good and don’t worry to whom.

_Mexican Proverb_

Help thy brother’s boat across, and lo! thine own has reached the shore.

_Hindu Proverb_

He that plants trees loves others besides himself.

_English Proverb_
Charity sees the need; not the cause.

*German Proverb*

If you want happiness for an hour – take a nap. If you want happiness for a day – go fishing. If you want happiness for a month – get married. If you want happiness for a year – inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime – help someone else.

*Chinese Proverb*

Swift gratitude is the sweetest.

*Greek Proverb*

A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses.

*Chinese Proverb*
HONESTY & INTEGRITY

When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous have a refuge.  
*Proverbs 14:32*

A man is not honest simply because he never had a chance to steal.  
*Yiddish Proverb*

A true word needs no oath.  
*Turkish Proverb*

Let your ears hear what your mouth says.  
*Jewish Proverb*

One falsehood spoils a thousand truths.  
*African Proverb*

Tell the truth and run.  
*Yugoslavian Proverb*

Truth is not determined by the volume of the voice.  
*Chinese Proverb*

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

Better to be slapped with the truth than kissed with a lie.  
*Russian Proverb*
He that flatters you more than you desire either has deceived you or wishes to deceive you.

_Italian Proverb_

Too much politeness conceals deceit.

_Chinese Proverb_

The only free cheese is in a mousetrap.

_American Proverb_

A clear conscience laughs at false accusations.

_English Proverb_

What you don’t see with your eyes, don’t witness with your mouth.

_Jewish Proverb_

The teeth are smiling, but is the heart?

_Congolese Proverb_

He that speaks truth must first have one foot in the stirrup.

_Turkish Proverb_

When you shoot an arrow of truth, dip the point in honey.

_Arab Proverb_
Even in laughter the heart may ache, and joy may end in grief.

Proverbs 14:13

The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears.

Native American Proverb

Grief shared is half grief; Joy shared is double joy.

Honduran Proverb

Every day good luck to thee, And no day of sorrow be!

Gaelic Proverb

Joy must have sorrow.

Polish Proverb

You can’t see the sun when you’re crying.

American Proverb

All clouds do not rain.

Dutch proverb

Unshared joy is an unlighted candle.

Spanish Proverb
LAUGHTER

A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.

Proverbs 15:30

A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor’s book.

Irish Proverb

Mirth is the sugar of life.

German Proverb

What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul.

Yiddish proverb

Laughter cannot bring back what anger has driven away.

Japanese Proverb
LIFE & LIVING

He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

Proverbs 10:17

If you can’t bite, don’t show your teeth.

Yiddish Proverb

The fish does not go after the hook, but after the bait.

Czech Proverb

Life is not a cup to be drained, but a measure to be filled.

American Proverb

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

Chinese Proverb

Walk lightly in the spring; Mother Earth is pregnant.

Kiowa Proverb

We come into this world crying while all around us are smiling. May we so live that we go out of this world smiling while everybody around us is weeping.

Persian Proverb

As he thinks in his heart, so he is.

Jewish Proverb

There is nothing as eloquent as a rattlesnake’s tail.

Navajo Proverb
For the concert of life, no one receives a program.  

*Dutch Proverb*

The best way to get praise is to die.  

*Italian Proverb*

Yesterday is a dream, tomorrow but a vision. But today well-lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore to this day.  

*Sanskrit Proverb*

It takes all sorts to make a world.  

*English Proverb*

There is no bad patience.  

*Swahili Proverb*

Everyone is the age of their heart.  

*Guatemalan Proverb*

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

*Jewish Proverb*

Patience is a flower that grows not in everyone’s garden.  

*Italian Proverb*

Discretion is knowing how to hide that which we cannot remedy.  

*Spanish Proverb*

We are all wanderers on this earth. Our hearts are full of wonder, and our souls are deep with dreams.  

*Gypsy Proverb*
Where nettles thrive, roses cannot grow.  

Russian Proverb

The soldiers fight, and the kings are heroes.  

Yiddish Proverb

Patience is a bitter plant but it has sweet fruit.  

German Proverb

The wolf will hire himself out very cheaply as a shepherd.  

Russian Proverb

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

Spanish Proverb

We’re fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance.  

Japanese Proverb

That the birds of worry and care fly over your head, this you cannot change, but that they build nests in your hair, this you can prevent.  

Chinese Proverb

Gain does not give as much pleasure as loss gives grief.  

Greek Proverb

The remedy for injuries is not to remember them.  

Italian Proverb
LOVE

Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers all wrongs.

*Proverbs 10:12*

If you live in my heart, you live rent free.

*Irish Proverb*

Choose thy love. Love thy choice.

*German Proverb*

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

*Cuban Proverb*

Marriage is a covered dish.

*Swiss Proverb*

The heart that loves is always young.

*Greek Proverb*

It’s easy to halve the potato where there’s love.

*Irish Proverb*

Tell me whom you love, and I’ll tell you who you are.

*Creole Proverb*

Love me when I least deserve it, because that’s when I really need it.

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

Native American Proverb

Passionate love and a cough cannot be concealed.  

Japanese Proverb

The first love letters are written with the eyes.  

French Proverb

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

Latin Proverb

Judge not by the eye but by the heart.  

Native American Proverb
Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

Proverbs 17:1

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

American Proverb

Anger of the mind is poison to the soul.

Ecuadorian Proverb

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

Korean Proverb

A quarrel is like buttermilk, the more you stir it, the more sour it grows.

Bolivian Proverb

The weaker the argument, the stronger the words.

American Proverb

Sweet is war to those who have never experienced it.

Latin Proverb

Better to eat bread in peace than cake amidst turmoil.

Slovakian Proverb

Hear the other side.

Roman Proverb
Not the fastest horse can catch a word spoken in anger.  

*Chinese Proverb*

Anger is a bad counselor.  

*French Proverb*

One kind word can warm three winter months.  

*Japanese Proverb*

A good sword is the one left in its scabbard.  

*Japanese Proverb*

One who smiles rather than rages is always the stronger.  

*Japanese Proverb*

When one will not, two cannot quarrel.  

*Spanish Proverb*

The body heals with play, the mind heals with laughter and the spirit heals with joy.  

*American Proverb*

One kind word can warm three winter nights.  

*Japanese Proverb*

You don’t get rid of your temper when you lose it.  

*American Proverb*

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

*Chinese Proverb*
As a fire is kindled by bellows, so is anger by words.  

*English Proverb*

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

*Italian Proverb*

Kind words will unlock an iron door.  

*Turkish Proverb*
PERSPECTIVE

The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.

Proverbs 18:17

The fireside is the tulip bed of a winter day.

Persian Proverb

Instead of complaining that the rosebush is full of thorns, be happy that the thornbush has roses.

German Proverb

People are like grass in the field: some blossom, some wither.

Jewish Proverb

Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.

Maori Proverb

Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow.

Swedish Proverb

Experience is a comb we receive just when we are going bald.

Chinese Proverb

I complained because I had no shoes until I met a man with no feet.

Arabic Proverb
Do not remove a fly from your friend’s forehead with a hatchet.  
*Chinese Proverb*

Ask too much to get enough.  
*Spanish Proverb*

Hay is more acceptable to an ass than gold.  
*Latin Proverb*

It is an equal failing to trust everybody as it is to trust nobody.  
*English Proverb*
RESPONSIBILITY

*A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.*

*Proverbs 19:19*

Treat the world well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was willed to you by your children.

*Kenyan Proverb*

Laws without penalties are like bells without clappers.

*Czech Proverb*

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

*African Proverb*

Alcohol will preserve anything but a secret.

*American Proverb*
SUCCESS & FAILURE

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:22

Bury can’t and you’ll find will.

American Proverb

Accident is the mother of invention.

American Proverb

It is not enough for a man to know how to ride, he must also know how to fall.

Native American Proverb

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

African Proverb

Success has many parents, but failure is an orphan.

American Proverb

Cherish what you have and struggle for better.

Greek Proverb

We learn little from victory, much from defeat.

Japanese Proverb
We’ve arrived, and to prove it we’re here.

*Japanese Proverb*

Sometimes the best gain is to lose.

*American Proverb*
The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old.

Proverbs 20:29

There’s no thief like a bad book.

Italian Proverb

Time is like a river - it flows by and doesn’t return.

Chinese Proverb

The past remembered is a good guide for the future.

Chinese Proverb

The oldest trees often bear the sweetest fruit.

German Proverb

Everybody has been young before, but not everybody has been old before.

African Proverb

Age gives good advice when it is no longer able to give bad example.

American Proverb

If the young only knew; if the old only could.

French Proverb

The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune.

Irish Proverb
Who rises late must trot all day.

*American Proverb*

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

*Native American Proverb*

An old broom knows the dirty corners best.

*Irish Proverb*

Every seed knows its time.

*Russian Proverb*

No one knows the story of tomorrow’s dawn.

*African Proverb*

Long is not forever.

*German Proverb*
WEALTH & MONEY

A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.

Proverbs 15:27

Money swore an oath that nobody who did not love it should ever have it.

Irish Proverb

Money matters make strangers.

Japanese Proverb

It’s better to tell your money where to go than to ask where it went.

American Proverb

The richest man, whatever his lot, is he who is content with what he has got.

Dutch Proverb

Nothing seems expensive on credit.

Czech Proverb


WISDOM

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

Proverbs 4:6

The deepest waters make the least noise.

Guatemalan Proverb

A black hen lays a white egg.

French Proverb

The land is never devoid of counselors.

African Proverb

Blind belief is dangerous.

Western Kenyan Proverb

Never get in a battle of wits without ammunition.

American Proverb

Were there no fools, there would be no wise men.

German Proverb

Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet.

African Proverb

A book holds a house of gold.

Chinese Proverb
Too clever is dumb.

*German Proverb*

Knowledge is learning something every day. Wisdom is letting go of something every day.

*Zen Proverb*

The luck of an ignoramus is this: He doesn’t know that he doesn’t know.

*Yiddish Proverb*

Ignorance is a voluntary misfortune.

*Italian Proverb*

Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.

*Maori Proverb*

Advice is least heeded when most needed.

*American Proverb*

If you put out another’s candle, you also will be in the dark.

*German Proverb*

One false step brings everlasting grief. Short please, long lament.

*Chinese Proverb*

When you open a door, don’t forget to close it. Treat your mouth accordingly.

*Jewish Proverb*

To one who does not know, a small garden is a forest.

*African Proverb*
The mouth is the cause of calamity. 

*Japanese Proverb*

It usually rains where it’s already wet. 

*German Proverb*

The stars make no noise. 

*Irish Proverb*

Gossip about a person and his shadow will appear. 

*Japanese Proverb*

Those who have one foot in the canoe, and one foot in the boat are going to fall into the river. 

*Native American Proverb*

In time of war the devil makes more room in hell. 

*German Proverb*

It would be a very big book that contained all the maybes uttered in a day. 

*French Proverb*

Speaking comes by nature, silence by understanding. 

*German Proverb*

Neither give cherries to pigs nor advice to a fool. 

*Irish Proverb*

A turkey never voted for an early Christmas. 

*Irish Proverb*
There’s none so blind as those who won’t see.  
*English Proverb*

Luck never gives; it only lends.  
*Swedish Proverb*

A diplomat must always think twice before he says nothing.  
*Irish Proverb*

Listen or your tongue will keep you deaf.  
*Native American Proverb*

A crow is no whiter for being washed.  
*French Proverb*

You may think the grass is greener on the other side, but if you take the time to water your own grass, it would be just as green.  
*American Proverb*

The reverse side also has a reverse side.  
*Japanese Proverb*

If you understand everything, you must be misinformed.  
*Japanese Proverb*

The inarticulate speak longest.  
*Japanese Proverb*

The tongue is but three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet high.  
*Japanese Proverb*

The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives.  
*Native American Proverb*
A silent mouth is sweet to hear.  
Irish Proverb

From listening comes wisdom and from speaking repentance.  
Italian Proverb

A wise man adapts himself to circumstances, as water shapes itself to the vessel that contains it."  
Chinese Proverb

Better to ask twice than to lose your way once.  
Danish Proverb

To question a wise man is the beginning of wisdom.  
German Proverb

Don’t ask questions of fairy tales.  
Jewish Proverb

One evening’s conversation with a superior man is better than ten years of study.  
Chinese Proverb

Many men know how to flatter, few men know how to praise.  
Greek Proverb

From listening comes wisdom and from speaking repentance.  
Italian Proverb

When all men speak, no man hears.  
English Proverb
Examine what is said, not him who speaks.  
*Arabian Proverb*

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

Silence is sometimes the answer.  
*Estonian Proverb*

Use your wit as a shield, not a dagger.  
*American Proverb*

Words have no wings but they can fly a thousand miles.  
*Korean Proverb*

Knowledge without wisdom is a load of books on the back of an ass.  
*Japanese Proverb*
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