

Compiled by Madanmohan Rao

Pearls of Wisdom:

indian proverbs & quotations

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Preface

This is a work in progress!

No work on Indian proverbs and quotations can really be said to be ‘complete,’ of course, given the depth and diversity of India’s philosophical traditions and the ongoing contributions of its prolific scholars, gurus, artistes, statesmen and leaders both in India as well as the globe-spanning Indian diaspora.

But this collection actually has its roots in my Loyola school years in Poona, when like many schoolkids I would make annual scrap-books of R.K. Laxman cartoons, newspaper cuttings, idioms, proverbs, poems and quotations. I gathered the proverbs and quotations from newspapers, magazines, the innumerable highly-affordable paperback compilations in India, and from friends and relatives.

This carried on in my college days in IIT-Bombay, grad-school days in the US at UMass Amherst, work postings in Brasil and Italy, and after my return to Asia. Many proverbs and quotations stayed in my scrap-books, but quite a few surfaced in my various PowerPoint presentations, guest-edited corporate newsletters, and as opening quotes in my books on new media and knowledge management. (In fact, I joke with my friends and colleagues that with this book I have now moved on from knowledge management to wisdom management!)

Fuelled in part by the growing global buzz about India, the unbelievable energy that India today exudes, and the boom in media about India, I decided to give my humble scribbled quotations a more permanent home in the form of this book.

All glory and thanks should of course go to the wise people and scriptures of India that graced this planet well before my time, but I hope by putting some of their words together I can bring some rays of inspiration and a smile of pride to you, my readers!

This book has now grown into a larger ongoing project called “The World of Proverbs” (www.WorldOfProverbs.org) to document and chronicle humanity’s heritage through its proverbs in a multitude of languages, and share it worldwide via popular and authoritative books as well as 21st century tools ranging from social media and open access models to portable devices and mobile apps.

For instance, you can also get the proverbs translated into English as daily tweets on Twitter at @IndianProverbs and @WorldOfProverbs! Mobile subscribers in India can get proverbs via daily SMS messages by signing up online (at www.mytoday.com/store/products/DEF-PROVERB).

You may choose to read this book from cover-to-cover, or open to any page and read as much as you want, or read a page a day, or..... or whichever way you wish! Perhaps future enlarged editions of this book would have the proverbs classified by category, or be in the various Indian languages, or be brought out in the other languages of the world, or become a more rigorous academic work. This is a work in progress.....

My thanks go to my family, relatives, friends, colleagues and fellow-travellers in my innumerable journeys to the far corners of this world. Special thanks also to the countless Indian and world music artistes whose music has inspired me as much as the proverbs and quotations in this book (more on that in another book with the Indian Music Experience Museum!). And heartiest thanks to Osama Manzar, Shaifali Chikermane and their team for bringing this book to light!

If you have proverbs and quotations from your own collections that you would like share, or if there are inaccuracies and errors in any of the quotes in this book, please email me at madan@techsparks.com or contact me via the Web sites www.IndianProverbs.in or www.WorldOfProverbs.org. Your inputs will be incorporated into future enlarged editions of this book, new kinds of books, a multimedia CD, a companion Web site, and a collaborative wiki!

This is a work in progress.

Madanmohan Rao
Bangalore



Just as beauty spots and hair beautify women, proverbs beautify language.

Bengali proverb

What does a monkey know of the taste of ginger?

Hindi proverb

The worth of the shade is only known when the sun is beating down hot.

Tamil proverb

Life is like a lamp flame; it needs a little oil now and then.

Kashmiri proverb

Do not dig a well only after the house catches fire.

Kannada proverb

The mouse who finds a piece of turmeric cannot claim to own a grocery store.

Sindhi proverb

The neighbour's curry even if sour is tasty.

Telugu proverb

For a satiated duck fish becomes tasteless.

Bhojpuri proverb

There will always be a ditch in front of a person in a hurry.

Punjabi proverb

The adult looks to deeds, the child to love.

Hindustani proverb

A donkey cannot appreciate the taste of jaggery.

Marathi proverb

Wherever there is cow dung, that is where you will find your bread.

Mewari proverb

Without the breeze blowing can the leaves tremble?

Manipuri proverb

The cloud that roars seldom pours.

Maithili proverb

The right path is steep and upwards, the wrong path is easy and horizontal.

Mizo proverb

One can sense the fragrance of the tulusi even when the first two tender leaves appear.

Oriya proverb

Knowledge is higher than power.

Hindi proverb

To lift an elephant you need an elephant.

Tulu proverb

A peacock's eggs do not need to be painted.

Gujarati proverb

All the ten fingers are used in eating. But it is the thumb that has to push the food into the mouth.

Assamese proverb

If one is lazy, even nectar turns into poison.

Sanskrit proverb

Even when throwing in the river, measure what you throw.

Tamil proverb

Whether you like it or not, I am your guest.

Urdu proverb

Elders' advice is like gooseberries; at first sour then sweet.

Malayalam proverb

You can't get drunk if you are riding a horse.

Konkani proverb

Even a witch spares her neighbourhood.

Marwari proverb

Anger is as a stone cast into a wasp's nest.

Malabar Proverb

When the student is ready, the master appears.

Buddhist proverb

Do not say, "It is morning," and dismiss it with a name of yesterday. See it for the first time as a newborn child that has no name.

Rabindranath Tagore

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a way that when you die, the world will cry and you will rejoice.

Kabir

The potter sleeps soundly, for no one would steal clay.

There can be no worship without good actions.

Guru Nanak

It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom.

Mahatma Gandhi

Include the world in your love, and call yourself a cosmic citizen.

Paramhansa Yogananda

On a truly hot day you will appreciate a pair of sandals the most.

Tamil proverb

The crow can never sing a sacred hymn.

Maithili proverb

A fool, though he lives in the company of the wise, understands nothing of the true doctrine, as a spoon tastes not the flavour of the soup.

Buddha

He who sees him in all and all in him, hates none.

He who feels for others as he feels for himself, loves all.

Isha Upanishad

The purpose of this mortal life is to reach the shore of immortality by conquering both life and death.

Srimad Bhagavatam

To attain interior peace, one must be willing to pass through the contrary to peace.

Swami Brahmananda

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted – and behold, service was joy.

Rabindranath Tagore

Silence is the ocean in which all the rivers of all the religions discharge themselves.

Thayumanavar

Creation is the image of the creator.

Rig Veda

The mysteries of life are revealed to those who keep their mind vigilant at all times.

Yajur Veda

If your mind is boiling, remove the simmering logs.

Tamil proverb

The mango cannot be included in the class of jackfruit.

Konkani proverb

When there is grain, there will be holes in the granary.

Marathi proverb

Does the goat understand the butcher's market trade?

Malayalam proverb

Death is as necessary for a man's growth as life itself.

Mahatma Gandhi

With all my admiration and love for democracy, I am not prepared to accept the statement that the largest number of people are always right.

Jawaharlal Nehru

All moments are beautiful – only you have to be receptive and surrendering.

All moments are blessings – only you have to be capable of seeing. All moments are benedictions. If you accept them with deep gratitude, nothing ever goes wrong.

Osho

If you have good luck even an empty pot will be filled with gold.

Tamil proverb

A sign of intelligence is to find the one in many and the many in one.

Sri Sri Ravishankar

Timid thoughts, do not be afraid of me. I am the poet.

Rabindranath Tagore

The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught.

Aurobindo Ghosh

Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without spiritual life.

Buddha

The dustbin's dropping never goes to heaven.

Bengali proverb

You can squeeze oil out of the sesame seed, but you can never put it back in again.

Tamil proverb

When the sugarcane plant is watered the castor plant also gets water.

Marathi proverb

Make a wrong-doer feel shy, by doing him a favour.

Thirukural

There is no official coronation ceremony held to declare the lion as king of the jungle.

Sanskrit proverb

Learning, the destroyer of arrogance, begets arrogance in fools
Even as light that illumines the eye, makes owls blind.

Panchatantra

You can keep one betel nut in your pocket, but will it be possible to keep a betel nut tree?

Malayalam proverb

Our mind is like a garden which can either be intelligently cultivated or be allowed to run wild.

R. K. Murti

Life would be dull and colourless but for the obstacles that we have to overcome and the fights that we have to win.

Rabindranath Tagore

Heroes are made in the hour of defeat. Success is, therefore, well described as a series of glorious defeats.

Mahatma Gandhi

You can often find in rivers what you cannot find in oceans.

Self-praise is no recommendation.

Hindi proverb

Studying is sweat, but knowledge is sweet.

Tamil proverb

A man need not look into your mouth to see how old you are.

Kannada proverb

A gem may fall on dust and dirt, but its value is never hurt.

Maithili proverb

You cannot divide water with a stick.

Konkani proverb

The sugarcane is sweet but leave its roots alone.

Marathi proverb

Man's enemy is man, man's remedy is man.

Hindustani proverb

True happiness consists in making others happy.

Knowledge is of no use in the absence of right conduct, conduct is of no use in the absence of right knowledge.

Jain proverb

He that is baldheaded has no need for combs.

Help your brother's boat across, and your own will reach the shore.

Pleasure is frail like a dewdrop, when it laughs it dies.

Rabindranath Tagore

I want nothing to do with any religion concerned with keeping the masses satisfied to live in hunger, filth and ignorance.

Jawaharlal Nehru

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

Buddha

You can count the number of fruits produced by a tree, but not the number of trees produced by its fruit.

Tamil proverb

Humility is different from servility.

Sikh saying

Faith and trust can move mountains.

Ramayana

Great is the hero who does not forget his humble origins.

Mahabharata

The careful person builds brick houses, the careless person builds huts.

Manipuri proverb

Only if you are a buffalo can you eat even on a full stomach.

Bhojpuri proverb

Be gentle when you disentangle a sari from the thorns.

Tamil proverb

You cannot knead dough and plait your hair at the same time.

Sindhi proverb

Love is a crocodile in the river of desire.

Sanskrit proverb

An ignorant farmer does double work.

Marathi proverb

A contented mind is a continual feast.

Kannada proverb

Even a squirrel can provide the help that he is capable of.

Malayalam proverb

Fire and straw cannot agree.

Hindustani proverb

A good teacher must himself be a fellow traveller in the exciting pursuit of knowledge.

S. Radhakrishnan

The heart has no language, it speaks to the heart.

Mahatma Gandhi

The moon has her light all over the sky, her dark spots to herself.

Rabindranath Tagore

Spirituality is neither a privilege of the poor nor the luxury of the rich. It is the choice of the wise man.

Swami Chinmayananda

It is always dark at the foot of the lighthouse.

Hindi proverb

In times of need we even call a donkey King.

Marathi proverb

Sages say that the path of wisdom is narrow and difficult to tread, as narrow as the edge of a razor.

Upanishads

A cat in a cage becomes a lion.

Do not learn how to react, but how to respond.

Buddha

Most of the men and women today are not free and wise; they are like kites flown by priests and politicians who hold the string.

Har Dayal

I will rather have violence than cowardice masquerading as non-violence. Non-violence is a cult of the brave.

Mahatma Gandhi

Water whether hot or cold will extinguish the fire.

Tamil proverb

If you see the soul in every human being, you see truly.
If you see immortality in the heart of every mortal being, you see truly.

Bhagavad Gita

Let us look for gems together but remain friends.

Sindhi proverb

You can't sell the cow and have the milk too.

Kannada proverb

A cow and a mother should be waited upon.

Marathi proverb

The beauty of a sunset is shared by all human beings.

J. Krishnamurti

Swaraj has no meaning until it can annihilate the yawning gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Maulana Azad

Do not kill your goat just for its wool.

Tamil proverb

Remember there can be no happiness for anyone unless it is won for all.

Jagdish Chandra Bose

Divided rule and foreign rule are both unadulterated evils.

Chanakya

God's great power is in the gentle breeze, not in the storm.

Rabindranath Tagore

All sensory pleasures in the world are like wrapping paper. The true bliss is the present inside.

Sri Sri Ravishankar

There can be no worship without good actions.

Guru Nanak

We do not cry for the moon. We pluck it from the skies and wear it upon the diadem of Asia's freedom.

Sarojini Naidu

A horse cannot be judged by its saddle.

Marathi proverb

You cannot cook rice well by just dreaming about rice.

Tamil proverb

The deer has enemies because of its flesh.

Bengali proverb

Even a thin elephant cannot be tied in a cowshed.

Malayalam proverb

Eat fire and your mouth will burn, live on credit and your belly will burn.

Hindustani proverb

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.

Mahatma Gandhi

You can scare away a hundred crows with just one stone.

Tamil proverb

Truth can be stated in a thousand different ways, yet each one can be true.

Swami Vivekananda

When you learn to live for others, they will live for you.

Paramahansa Yogananda

There are thousands of lives in one single life.

Swami Prajnanpad

The discriminating principle is greater than the thinking self.

Lord Krishna

Through zeal, knowledge is gotten; through lack of zeal, knowledge is lost.

Buddha

A man is a universe in miniature -- and the universe, a giant living body.

Kabir

Only the foolish distinguish between man and woman; the good respect both equally.

Kalidasa

The old need the young so that they renew their contact with life.

Indira Gandhi

Nobody respects an empty pocket.

Bhojpuri proverb

Man's life is like an egg in the hands of an infant.

Tamil proverb

In a great house even the dog is respected.

Marathi proverb

Every heart has its own ache.

Kannada proverb

One individual may die for an idea; but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives.

Subhas Chandra Bose

No cruelty can be uglier in its ferocity than the cruelty of the coward.

Rabindranath Tagore

Better a thousand enemies than one unfaithful friend.

Tamil proverb

Better never love, if that love makes you hate others.

Swami Vivekananda

Truth is like the sun. No human being can ever look straight in its face without blinking or being dazed.

R.K. Narayanan

A crocodile at home can beat an elephant
But if he goes abroad a dog can make him pant.

Panchatantra

Liberty and democracy become unholy when their hands are dyed red with innocent blood.

Mahatma Gandhi

A serpent nursed on milk will still be poisonous.

Hindi proverb

Even the donkey is beautiful when it is a baby.

Tamil proverb

The cat's teeth can hold its young but also kill a rat.

Marathi proverb

Iron and knowledge will get spoiled if they are not used.

Malayalam proverb

When there are mangoes in the tree, stones are money.

Hindustani proverb

You should not call in a cat to settle the argument of two birds.

A half-truth won for ourselves is worth more than a whole truth learned from others.

S. Radhakrishnan

Death's stamp gives value to the coin of life, making it possible to buy with life what is truly precious.

Rabindranath Tagore

The wind does not choose which odour to carry along, good or bad.

Like the body that is made up of different limbs and organs, all mortal creatures exist depending on one another.

The new man will not be a Christian or a Hindu, a Mohammedan or a Buddhist. He will simply be religious.

Osho

No matter how high the eagle flies its gaze is always on the ground.

Tamil proverb

Sunlight is neither yours nor mine.

J. Krishnamurthi

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.

Rabindranath Tagore

Results are achieved only by action, not by riding the chariot of the mind.

Panchatantra

Even a leper can threaten you with his spit.

Bhojpuri proverb

You may go with fanfare to a happy home, but you must go unannounced to a grieving home.

Tamil proverb

The grass of an honest person will remain green.

Sindhi proverb

Too much reverence is the mark of a cheat.

Bengali proverb

Strike the serpent's head with your enemy's hand.

Kannada proverb

A buffalo's horns do not appear heavy for the buffalo.

Marathi proverb

The noise of the moment scoffs at the music of the eternal.

Rabindranath Tagore

Facts are facts and will not disappear on account of your likes.

Jawaharlal Nehru

True beauty consists in purity of the heart.

Mahatma Gandhi

The treasure of learning is imperishable.

Swami Dayanand

Silence is golden, especially for the thief.

Tamil proverb

Do not burn the house to catch the rat.

Malayalam proverb

One who has been bitten by a serpent dreads a rope.

Urdu proverb

If you can observe yourself, then you can give your imagination complete freedom.

Rajneesh

Our life carries within it a record that time cannot blur or death erase.

S. Radhakrishnan

Let noble thoughts come to us from every side.

Rigveda

Dislodging a green nut from its shell is almost impossible, but let it dry and the lightest tap will do it.

Sri Ramakrishna

A true diagnosis is three-fourths the remedy.

Mahatma Gandhi

Only an elephant can carry an elephant's load.

Marathi proverb

Fetters even of gold are heavy.

Hindi proverb

A lazy person is like a clock with no hands.

Tamil proverb

Cheerful patience is required both for naughty children and your own mind.

Buddha

Genius does not argue, it creates.

Rabindranath Tagore

Myriads of ants can feed on the crumbs of an elephant's meal.

Marathi proverb

One's knowledge is only a handful of sand, there is still an ocean of knowledge to learn.

Tamil proverb

Food will last while the forests last.

Kashmiri Proverb

The God may grant the boon but the priest will not.

Kannada proverb

If you make delay even ambrosia turns into poison.

Telugu proverb

In a tree-less country, the castor-oil plant is a big tree.

Hindi proverb

You may lock up the cock, but the sun will still rise.

He who gives advice should also be able to follow advice.

Punjabi proverb

It is morning whenever you wake up.

Gujarati proverb

The tongue because it has no bone, says various things.

Assamese proverb

Worries are similar to a pyre.

Sanskrit proverb

A one-eyed uncle is better than no uncle at all.

Bengali proverb

The powerful deny the weak even the right to complain.

Bhojpuri proverb

Stolen jaggery is always sweeter.

Hindi proverb

Even stones beneath a jasmine flower attain fragrance.

Malayalam proverb

The blind man loses his staff only once.

Hindustani proverb

Religion does not teach you to make enemies.

Urdu proverb

Where love reigns the impossible may be attained.

Everything looks yellow to a jaundiced eye.

Hindi proverb

Never belittle your mother, water, or salt.

Tamil proverb

A great man and a great river are often ill neighbours.

Kannada proverb

As a boat on the water can be swept away off course by a strong wind, so the intelligence may be carried away by any of the roaming senses on which the mind alights.

Bhagavad Gita

If you live only with the fox you will learn only to bark like a fox.

Malayalam proverb

Golden earrings are not worthy of possession if they are too heavy and tear your ears.

Sindhi proverb

If it is man's privilege to be independent, it is equally his duty to be interdependent.

Mahatma Gandhi

If you shed tears when you miss the sun, you also miss the stars.

Rabindranath Tagore

Rather than continuing to seek the truth, simply let go of your views.

Buddha

Do not feed the crows if you have no grains in your home.

Punjabi proverb

You cannot yoke a bullock with an elephant.

Marathi proverb

Burns from a fire may heal, but never the hurt from a cruel tongue.

Tamil proverb

If God dwells only in the mosque
Then to whom belongeth the rest of the country?

Kabir

To be one with the world is wisdom.

Thirukkural

In a forest fire, the blind and the lame can help each other reach safety.

Jain proverb

Nature is the book of God always open before our eyes.

Sikh saying

It is better to be criticised by a wise man rather than be praised by a fool.

Sindhi proverb

In times of need one has to bow before the buffoon.

Hindi proverb

You do not have to teach a child how to cry.

Tamil proverb

You can work till your bones break but you cannot eat till your teeth break.

Malayalam proverb

Laughter is the ornament for the shameless.

Telugu proverb

To serve the Englishman is to tease a monkey.

Hindustani proverb

Beauty lies in the total abandonment of the observer and the observed.

J. Krishnamurthi

It is only in your coffin that you sleep really well.

An animal, a child and an ignoramus are slaves to their desires.

Swami Prajnanpad

Bravery is not the monopoly of any one person.

It is latent in all, only they are not aware of it.

Mahatma Gandhi

Darkness travels towards light, but blindness towards death.

Rabindranath Tagore

Once you know yourself, there is no death. In your meditative consciousness, death disappears just as darkness disappears when there is light brought in.

Osho

You can't quench your thirst by swallowing your saliva.

Bhojpuri proverb

A centipede does not become lame after breaking a leg.

Marathi proverb

Even the best artist cannot write on water.

Tamil proverb

Truth has but one color, a lie has many.

Sanskrit proverb

The best medals lose their lustre unless brightened by use.

Kannada proverb

Even death is not to be feared by one who has lived wisely.

Buddha

Faith acts as a beacon when all else is dark.

Ramayana

The knowledge of truth brings with it power.

But if the power be mixed with arrogance, it slides back into ignorance.

Mahabharata

Great minds discuss ideas.

Medium minds discuss events.

Small minds discuss people.

Swami Chinmayananda

The end of all knowledge must be building of character.

Mahatma Gandhi

To lose is to learn.

Hindi proverb

Even the bird in the sky does not build its nest in the sky.

Tamil proverb

The cow in the printed page will not eat grass. It will also not give milk.

Malayalam proverb

A little trickle of water is a flood to an ant.

Marathi proverb

There is no need to name the son before the wife is pregnant.

Telugu proverb

A guilty conscience is a lively enemy.

Joy is never tomorrow. It is always now.

Sri Sri Ravishankar

Parents teach us how to speak but experience teaches us when to be quiet.

Tamil proverb

Women, in your laughter you have the music of the fountain of life.

Rabindranath Tagore

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness.

Mahatma Gandhi

Incarceration in my country is better than freedom abroad.

Subhas Chandra Bose

One should interfere in a fight between a couple only at his own risk.

Bhojpuri proverb

He who knows others is learned, he who knows himself is wise.

Hindi proverb

Man becomes bald one hair at a time.

Tamil proverb

You cannot cook one half of the chicken and expect the other half to lay eggs.

Sanskrit proverb

One who eats food from the bottom of the pan will not suffer from pain or humiliation.

Sindhi proverb

A young fish does not need to be taught how to swim.

Marathi proverb

A word spoken in wrath is the sharpest sword; covetousness is the deadliest poison; passion is the fiercest fire; ignorance is the darkest night.

Buddha

Better cross-eyed than blind.

Experience is as important for knowledge as education.

Tamil proverb

Only if money helps a man to do good to others, is it of some value.

Swami Vivekananda

Simplify one's desires, certainly: but which ones?

Swami Prajnanpad

The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of success.

Paramahansa Yogananda

The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still small voice of conscience.

Rabindranath Tagore

Truth requires as much of strength to give as to receive.

R.K. Narayanan

Perseverance opens up treasures which bring perennial joy.

Mahatma Gandhi

Amongst calves a handicapped cow is wise.

Hindi proverb

One thing rots, but it becomes the manure for another.

Malayalam proverb

The sharpest metal can pierce the heart – but also lacerate a boil.

Tamil proverb

You cannot see your own back.

Marathi proverb

A rogue does not listen to a discourse on honesty.

Bengali proverb

Be slow to promise but quick to perform.

Kannada proverb

If all get into the palanquin, who will be the bearers?

Telugu proverb

A dark house seems full of snakes.

Hindustani proverb

Let the sacred flame of divine fire shine bright in your souls.

Rig Veda

He who sees all beings in his own self, and his own self in all beings, loses all fear.

Isa Upanishad

Think of yourself as if you were the only unenlightened person in the world. Everyone else is your teacher.

Buddha

It is better to be a humble student of a wise man than the sovereign king of a hundred duds.

Tamil proverb

The mother of the thief cries alone in a corner.

Sindhi proverb

The stomach cannot be filled with the pickings of the teeth.

Marathi proverb

If we can really understand the problem, the answer will come out of it, because the answer is not separate from the problem.

J. Krishnamurti

When the old tracks are lost, new country is revealed with its wonders.

Rabindranath Tagore

You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul.

Swami Vivekananda

We die and are reborn as we change our clothes.

Hindi proverb

You will wear out seven million pairs of sandals before you find the perfect spouse.

Tamil proverb

The stomach has taught us the meaning of 'enough.'

Marathi proverb

As a fire is extinguished only by water, similarly, the anger caused by harsh speech can be pacified only by the words of wisdom spoken by the virtuous.

Sanskrit proverb

The wise will scent danger beforehand, and hold the mind from wavering when danger comes.

Mahabharata

Mind is king, mind is also subject.

Marathi proverb

One can seldom see the beam in one's own eye.

Jawaharlal Nehru

We cannot, in a moment, get rid of habits of a lifetime.

Mahatma Gandhi

Just as the sky has only one sun, a man can have only one master.

Tamil proverb

Those who sit idly in the expectation of God's help are great fools.

Swami Dayanand

Our desire lends the colours of the rainbow to the mere mists and vapours of life.

S. Radhakrishnan

Of what is a toothless man in a murruku shop?

Tamil proverb

Art is the response of man's creative Soul to the call of the Real.

Rabindranath Tagore

Greed remains young forever.

Panchatantra

No necklace can bring you peaceful sleep.

Marathi proverb

Dawn arrives even without a rooster.

Hindi proverb

Even too much rest can give you an ache.

Tamil proverb

Better to have a diamond with a few flaws than a rock that is perfect.

We should know both the revealed and the unrevealed God.

Upanishad

Most people are unfit to have children.

Osho

Man's triumph will consist in substituting the struggle for existence by a struggle for mutual service.

Mahatma Gandhi

To serve is difficult on an empty belly.

Hindi proverb

Be like a bee, taking only the nectar from your experiences.

Tamil proverb

To the world, wisdom is folly. To the wise, the world is foolish.

The leftovers of some could be a hearty meal for others.

Kashmiri proverb

The quarrel between a husband and wife is till they eat and go to bed.

Kannada proverb

Farther hills look smoother.

Telugu proverb

Better a true enemy than a false friend.

Hindi proverb

You never die before death arrives.

If you have no wealth no one knows who you are, but if you have too much wealth even you will not know who you are.

Tamil proverb

No necklace can bring you peaceful sleep.

Marathi proverb

Spittle directed at the heavens falls on one's face.

Hindi proverb

If you must catch a light branch for support, catch the branch of a tamarind tree.

Malayalam proverb

One person's silence can ensure the peace of a hundred.

Punjabi proverb

One's mother and homeland are greater than even heaven.

Sanskrit proverb

A confectioner is never attracted by sweetmeats.

Bengali proverb

On a green tree there are many parrots.

Hindi proverb

A lost fortune can be regained but a lost second is gone forever.

Tamil proverb

A good friend can replace the mirror.

Malayalam proverb

How long will the buck goat's mother pray for his life?

Hindustani proverb

He who has mounted an elephant will not fear the bark of a dog.

What we cultivate in times of ease, we store up to support us in times of change.

Buddha

Correct your friend in private but praise him in public.

Tamil proverb

If you spend your life killing, you will never be rid of all your enemies. But if you quell your own anger, you will have slain your real enemy.

Nagarjuna

Daub your mouth with honey and you will get plenty of flies.

Hindi proverb

Be slow to promise but quick to perform.

Kannada proverb

He who is carrying your palanquin knows your true weight.

Telugu proverb

She who is good-looking cares little about tidy hair or forehead marks.

Marathi proverb

Age considers, youth ventures.

Rabindranath Tagore

We must look the world in the face with calm eyes
Even though the eyes of the world are bloodshot today.

Mahatma Gandhi

It is better to avoid friendship with a policeman.

Bhojpuri proverb

Display your skills but hide your fears.

Tamil proverb

A smile you send, will always return.

God exists in one's heart like the pupil in the eye.
But ignorance causes a man to seek Him far and wide.

Kabir

Cut your coat according to your cloth.

Hindi proverb

One can bear the blows of canes and whips by day but not the
bites of bedbugs by night.

Tamil proverb

To the hungry a stale loaf is a crisp cake.

Hindustani proverb

Fish and guests smell when they are three days old.

There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved; it is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.

Swami Vivekananda

The benevolent man should serve society seeking no return. For how can the earth recompense the bounty of the rain clouds?

Tirukkural

No one lost from telling the truth and no one gained from telling lies.

Tamil proverb

A threaded needle does not get lost even if it falls on the ground.

Jain proverb

Formalities and rituals only have value when we are alive to their inner meanings.

Sikh saying

A man with no money does not need a wallet,
But a man with too much money needs more than just wallets.

Tamil proverb

It is foolish to throw stones at the gnats' hive.

Malayalam proverb

Those who cannot wear a sari properly complain that it is short.

Marathi proverb

All things that great men do are well done.

Kannada proverb

He who has to answer is inferior to him who asks.

Telugu proverb

War is death's feast.

Hindi proverb

The anger of virtuous men is pacified easily but the wicked never give up their grievances. After all, gold can be melted, but who can melt mere grass?

Sanskrit proverb

It is a greater gift to give than to receive.

Life is like a game of cards. The hand that is dealt you represents determinism; the way you play it is free will.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Friendship with an idiot and moonlight during rainy season are never trustworthy.

Bhojpuri proverb

Just yearning for the fruit in the tree will not bring it to your hands.

Tamil proverb

It is the tears of the world that keep the smiles in bloom.

Rabindranath Tagore

An extremist or terrorist who is ready to kill someone is thereby offering to sacrifice his own life for the cause. Hence a potential extremist is an appropriate recruit for social action at a higher moral level – namely, non-violent satyagraha.

Mahatma Gandhi

An artist is not a special kind of man, but every man is a special kind of artist.

Anand Kumar Swami

All the knowledge in the world is no good if it deserts a person in the hour of need.

Ramayana

A guest is a guest for two days, on the third he is a pest.

Hindi proverb

First give the kick then give the order.

Marathi proverb

The ladle will be full only when the pot is full.

Tamil proverb

Vows made in storms are forgotten in calms.

Kannada proverb

Listen to popular opinion but follow your own mind.

Marathi proverb

A brown buffalo, a bald wife and rain in December are indeed rare.

Hindustani proverb

Character, not brain, will count at the crucial moment.

Rabindranath Tagore

We are not going to be free but are free already.

Swami Vivekananda

Creation is the image of the creator.

Rig Veda

He who buys dear cries once, he who buys cheap cries forever.

Hindi proverb

God laughs when you steal from a thief.

New doctors will fill graves faster than experienced doctors.

Tamil proverb

Throughout my life I have gained more from my critic friends than from my admirers.

Mahatma Gandhi

While hating sin we must be gentle to the sinner.

S. Radhakrishnan

A game of pleasure ought to be played for pleasure alone.

Mahabharata

The rafter taken out from one's burning roof is also profit for another.

Malayalam proverb

Both the burier and the buried go the same way.

Marathi proverb

A thief is a thief, whether he steals a diamond or a cucumber.

Hindi proverb

Writing the word 'sweet' on paper does not make it sweet.

Tamil proverb

A wise man does not become despondent in adversity, and does not become arrogant in times of prosperity.

Sanskrit proverb

There is no one who knows everything, there is no one who knows nothing.

Telugu proverb

Never stand in front of a judge or behind a donkey.

There is no harm if we possess the things of the world.
But it would be a tragedy if the things of the world possess us.

Swami Chinmayananda

The burden of self is lightened when I laugh at myself.

Rabindranath Tagore

Meditation is seeing God in yourself.
Love is seeing God in the person next to you.
Knowledge is seeing God everywhere.

Sri Sri Ravishankar

The eye of an ant is proportionately bigger than that of an elephant, but both can see well.

Tamil proverb

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

Mahatma Gandhi

Watch people do their most common actions – these are indeed the things that will tell you the real character of a great person.

Swami Vivekananda

The pine tree wishes she were a shrub when there is an axe at her feet.

Kannada proverb

Where there is a surfeit of words there is a famine of intelligence.

Marathi proverb

One slays, another pays.

Hindi proverb

Touch the feet of God but grab the devil by the horns.

Tamil proverb

Danger comes where danger is feared.

Bengali proverb

Even for a crow its baby is a golden baby.

Malayalam proverb

Stones don't hurt ghosts.

Hindustani proverb

It is easy to forget kindness, but one remembers unkindness.

A pearl is worthless as long as it is still in its shell.

Learn to be calm and you will always be happy.

Paramahansa Yogananda

He who has a hundred wants a thousand.

Panchatantra

First deserve then desire.

Hindi proverb

Where women are worshipped, goddesses dwell.

Sanskrit proverb

Broken friendship and a split pearl cannot be mended.

Marathi proverb

A second of help is better than hours of advice.

Tamil proverb

The candle about to go out gives sudden brilliance.

Telugu proverb

The wise never starve when fools have money.

Bhojpuri proverb

As we throw away our old worn-out garments and put on new ones, so the living soul after using the body throws it away when it is worn out and dons a new one.

Bhagvad Gita

To listen to some devout people, one would imagine that God never laughs.

Aurobindo Ghosh

Fingers are of different sizes, but each hurts the same when bitten.

Tamil proverb

No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.

Mahatma Gandhi

All proofs of truth are credentials of relationship.

Rabindranath Tagore

The fog cannot be dispelled by a fan.

Hindi proverb

He who wants fruits should not pick flowers.

When you have a rock in hand, usually there won't be a dog to hit nearby.

When there is a dog nearby, you usually won't have the rock to hit it with.

Tamil proverb

Don't quarrel with another, because a third will benefit from it.

Marathi proverb

The water in the coconut shell is like ocean to the ant.

Malayalam proverb

A blind man's wife is God's keeping.

Kashmiri proverb

One without worries can doze off in a marketplace.

Kannada proverb

In the house of the wealthy, even morons are considered intelligent.

Punjabi proverb

The mother of a divided family has no funeral.

Bengali proverb

One cannot empty the ocean into a pond.

Hindi proverb

Learning is a treasure no thief can touch.

You can't reap a cucumber if you sow a pumpkin.

Malayalam proverb

To quarrel with a man of good speech is better than to converse with a man who does not speak well.

Sanskrit proverb

If a ship sinks, salvage the iron.

Sindhi proverb

Without being asked even a mother will not give.

Telugu proverb

Learning is as hard to digest as iron.

Hindustani proverb

The pine tree wishes she were a shrub when there is an axe at her feet.

Kannada proverb

The poor look for food and the rich look for appetite.

Keep five yards from a carriage, ten yards from a horse, and a hundred yards from an elephant; but the distance one should keep from a wicked man cannot be measured.

I have lanced many boils but none pained like my own.

Hindi proverb

When sin's pitcher is full it breaks.

Marathi proverb

Do not wait for the lake to dry to catch the fish.

Tamil proverb

There is no flesh in a vulture's nest.

Hindustani proverb

It is easy to throw something into the river but hard to get it out again.

Look upon all animate beings as your bosom friends, for in all of them there resides one soul.

Rig Veda

Do not kick the ladder which got you to the top.

Tamil proverb

Religion can defended by the purity of its adherents and their good deeds, never by quarrels with those of other faiths.

Mahatma Gandhi

Belonging to a particular religion creates an unreligious world.

Rajneesh

God respects me when I work, but he loves me when I sing.

Rabindranath Tagore

What greater worship can there be than nature's own festival of lights!

Kabir

Medicines and feasts are meant only for three days.

Tamil proverb

Spend and God will send.

Hindi proverb

It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Sikh proverb

A fox should not be at the jury of a goose's trial.

Kannada proverb

A great man has great desires.

Marathi proverb

Crores of burning lamps cannot give light to a blind person.

Jain proverb

Poor people are driven by food, rich people are driven by hunger.

Tamil proverb

There are lessons to be learnt from everyone. The wise person realises this.

Ramayana

The king who aspires to monarchy must ever guard his kingdom with sleepless eyes.

Mahabharata

Agenda for today: breathe out, breathe in, breathe out.

Buddha

Beauty needs no ornaments.

Hindi proverb

The nouveau-rich person demands an umbrella to be held for him even at night.

Telugu proverb

Not all stones are blessed to become diamonds.

Tamil proverb

A dead elephant can still yield a hundred thousand coins in value.

Bengali proverb

Cast no dirt into the well that gives you water.

Kannada proverb

Personal experience is as important to follow as the scriptures.

Marathi proverb

There is perpetual mourning in an ant's nest.

Hindustani proverb

In love, beggar and king are equal.

Poverty makes thieves, like love makes poets.

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.

Mahatma Gandhi

The dawn is the dream of God's creative fancy.

Rig Veda

The artist is a lover of nature
Therefore he is her slave and her master.

Rabindranath Tagore

Bravery is man's jewel.

Hindustani proverb

There are no nuts when one has teeth and there are no teeth when there are nuts.

Kannada proverb

A man who has nothing will be satisfied with anything but a man who has something will not be satisfied even with everything.

Tamil proverb

Though one may be a little bubble and another may be a mountain-high wave, yet behind both the bubble and the wave there is the infinite ocean.

Swami Vivekananda

Influential people have big foreheads while rustics have big feet.

Bhojpuri proverb

Two swords do not fit in one scabbard.

Hindi proverb

What you know is as big as the size of your palm, what you do not know is as big as the size of the universe.

Tamil proverb

A man loves his own shortcomings.

Kashmiri proverb

Be servant to a wise man but not master to a fool.

Marathi proverb

You may cover a fish with spinach, but can't hide its smell.

Bengali proverb

The heart at rest sees a feast in everything.

Hindustani proverb

Don't judge any man until you have walked two moons in his shoes.

Even the moon has spots.

Hindi proverb

It cannot be stolen by a thief. It cannot be taken away by a King. It cannot be divided among brothers. It does not cause load. It always increases when spent. The wealth of knowledge is the greatest of all wealth.

Sanskrit proverb

When money is not a servant it is a master.

No matter how deep the crow dips into the water, it can never become an egret.

Tamil proverb

With a mere dung wash of the floor the festival is not complete.

Telugu proverb

All sins are committed in secrecy. The moment we realise that God witnesses even our thoughts, we shall be free.

Mahatma Gandhi

To travel is a better thing than to arrive.

S. Radhakrishnan

Even if you bathe in the Ganges devils do not become saints.

Tamil proverb

Emulation is better than envy.

Hindustani proverb

Like the silkworm, you have built a cocoon around yourself.
Burst your own cocoon and come out as the beautiful butterfly, as the free soul.

Swami Vivekananda

A ripened fallen fruit cannot re-attach to the branch.

Kabir

You may judge a flower or a butterfly by its looks, but not a human being.

Rabindranath Tagore

May your death be a step to immortality!

Rig Veda

The stream does not feel the loss at all if a bird takes a drop out of it.

Hindi proverb

Better poverty before wealth than poverty after wealth.

Tamil proverb

Do not open the door with an axe.

Kannada proverb

You can boil rice only once.

Marathi proverb

There can be a thousand miseries in one love.

Hindustani proverb

Greed increases with every gain.

Jain proverb

This they call the highest state: when the five senses and the mind are still, when not even reason stirs.

Upanishads

We need not change the wanderings of the mind, but its character.

Sikh proverb

Good people, like clouds, only receive to give away.

Not every debt can be paid off with money.

Rabindranath Tagore

No sacrifice is worth the name unless it is a joy.

Mahatma Gandhi

The joss-stick burns up and reduces itself to ashes – but makes the atmosphere pleasant for all around.

Ramayana

The deaf have no enemies.

Hindi proverb

Lessons and love imbibed in childhood are as everlasting as engravings on stone.

Tamil proverb

If you sit between two stools you will fall to the ground.

Kannada proverb

The bitter gourd remains bitter even when cooked in sugar.

Marathi proverb

Health is equal to a thousand other gifts.

Hindustani proverb

Don't poison someone whom you can kill with sweets.

Take care of each moment and you take care of all time.

Buddha

When water joins with water, it is not a meeting but a unification.

Swami Prajnanpad

Friends' accounts are kept in the head.

Hindustani proverb

The sense of shame decreases as the hunger increases.

Tamil proverb

One person's true love is another person's affair.

Hindi proverb

Look upon hardships with eagerness. They should not bring tears to the eye.

Look upon them as ordained to serve you, to chasten you through trials and tribulations, and finally leave you stronger, healthier, wiser than before.

Mahabharata

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

Mahatma Gandhi

If a man reads but one word of love, he becomes learned.

Swami Vivekananda

Science is acquaintance, not knowledge. It can never be absolute.

Rajneesh

Small things grow mighty if they are skilfully combined. Blades of grass will make a rope to bind a raging elephant.

Hitopadesha

He who eats will drink.

Marathi proverb

Trees in the wilderness are watered by God.

Kashmiri proverb

Beneath the roses lies the serpent.

Hindi proverb

The one who teaches is the giver of eyes.

Tamil proverb

Your leg starts to ache when you see a horse.

Kannada proverb

Unless a man is simple, he cannot recognise God, the Simple One.

Bengali proverb

Only the tree that bears fruit is hit by stones.

Telugu proverb

The inevitable is invincible.

Hindustani proverb

Worldly prosperity is like writing on water.

Man is worse than an animal when he is an animal.

Rabindranath Tagore

Only the baby who cries gets the milk.

Tamil proverb

Clap in praise of him whose bread you eat.

Marathi proverb

A bad temper is like a sinking boat.

Hindustani proverb

The whole universe is to us a writing of the Infinite in the language of the finite.

Swami Vivekananda

I would heartily welcome the union of East and West provided it is not based on brute force.

Mahatma Gandhi

A greedy person has no eyes and a stingy person has only one eye.

Tamil proverb

It is easy to hate, but healthy to love.

R. Radhakrishnan

The way to overcome the angry man is with gentleness, the evil man with goodness, the miser with generosity and the liar with truth.

One 'No' averts seventy evils.

Hindi proverb

Even the best painter starts with a blank wall.

Tamil proverb

If you drink milk beneath a toddy tree people will think you are drinking toddy.

Marathi proverb

Follow the river and you will get to the sea.

The whole world is poor, no one is rich.
Only the one who has the wealth of God's name is rich.

Kabir

Pride must be turned into self-reverence.

Sikh saying

The real worth of a person becomes apparent not during conditions of plenty but during privation.

Ramayana

In times of need be prepared to wear even torn and dirty clothes.

Tamil proverb

When madman meets madman they spend a jolly time.

Hindustani proverb

The heroes who fall in quest of victory or in defence of their faith are immortalised by the bards. But who remembers the widows they leave behind?

Mahabharata

We must become the change we want to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

Love must conquer hate, because hate can't conquer itself.

Swami Vivekananda

A guilty conscience is a hidden enemy.

Hindi proverb

Education in your childhood is like the letters in a sculpture.

Tamil proverb

Affluence and poverty are two pots slung on the same bamboo pole of life.

Telugu proverb

The dosa made in any or every house has pores.

Kannada proverb

To eat little is savoury, to eat much is injurious.

Marathi proverb

You can hold the tongue of the striker, but not the tongue of the reviler.

Hindustani proverb

Blaming your faults on your nature does not change the nature of your faults.

Love has the power to derive pleasure from mistakes, discords, incapacity. A mother's love overflows at the false step of the child whom she is teaching to walk.

Rabindranath Tagore

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean: if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

Mahatma Gandhi

Knowledge is of no avail if you cannot control your tongue.

Kabir

There is no mud unless it has rained.

Kashmiri proverb

A man must not be judged by the nature of his duties, but by the manner in which he does them.

Swami Vivekananda

A tame donkey is more useful than a stubborn horse.

Tamil proverb

When the mind becomes stable like the water of a clear pond, then the reflection of the soul can be seen in it.

Jain proverb

The body is the temple of God.

Sikh saying

Those who long for power try to be close to the powerful.

Ramayana

The memory of an insult refuses to die down.

Mahabharata

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

Mahatma Gandhi

Be first at the feast, and last at the fight.

Milk cannot satisfy your thirst for buttermilk.

Marathi proverb

For the love-sick, the pleasure of the eyes is enough.

Hindustani proverb

The greatest task of education is not merely to collect facts but to know man and to make oneself known to man.

Rabindranath Tagore

Call on God, but row away from the rocks.

Hindi proverb

If you have planted a tree you must water it too.

Tamil proverb

The son-in-law's sack is never full.

Kannada proverb

The sieve tells the needle: you have a hole in the head.

Hindi proverb

What is sport to the hunter is the death of the bird.

It is not a shame to fall but to remain fallen.

Tamil proverb

Dinner is waiting; even the bread is hungry.

Marathi proverb

A learned house also has a learned cat.

Hindustani proverb

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

Buddhist proverb

The gardener may water a hundred buckets
But the fruit will arrive only when it is due.

Kabir

The speech of a bore is as castor oil.

Tamil proverb

One who conquers one's self enjoys happiness.

Jain proverb

Let faith be thy staff.

Guru Nanak

Never leave a thing undone, waiting for tomorrow. There is no tomorrow.

Ramayana

A successful King is one who knows the history of all his subjects.

Mahabharata

Don't get a covering for the sitar before you feed your mother.

Kashmiri proverb

Even Ravana's mother did not know which of his mouths to feed.

Hindustani proverb

One who knows how to talk will have no fights, one who knows how to eat will have no sickness.

Kannada proverb

Wait till you get the silk sari before you discard the cotton one.

Tamil proverb

Strong winds may blow the tree down, but the grass will still stand.

Hindi proverb

A husband incapable of feeding the wife beats her like an expert.

Bengali proverb

If you give me rice, I will eat today.

If you teach me how to grow rice, I will eat everyday.

Mahatma Gandhi

Why need a mirror to see the bracelet on the wrist?

Telugu proverb

Where there is salt there is life.

Marathi proverb

Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.

Mahatma Gandhi

A singer who fails in public is like a monkey missing his branch.

Hindustani proverb

There is a world preaching in silence.

Rabindranath Tagore

Treat with respect and gratitude even the humblest meal of porridge.

Tamil proverb

Reason and intellect cannot make you see the Divine, it is the soul that sees.

Aurobindo Ghosh

Defeat defeat before defeat defeats you.

Swami Vivekananda

Do not blame God for having created the tiger, but thank Him for not having given it wings.

Hindi proverb

You can be patient when the food is boiling on the stove but you cannot be patient when the food is cooling on the table.

Marathi proverb

If you are buying a cow, make sure that the price of the tail is included.

Tamil proverb

The cawing of crows does not reach heaven.

Kannada proverb

Garlic is as good as ten mothers.

The diamond in your belly sparkles on your face.

Sanskrit proverb

We are both queens, so who will hang out the laundry?

Death looks at man and laughs all the while.

Kabir

The young crow is wiser than its parent.

Hindi proverb

A beautiful vendor can even sell fermented juice.

Tamil proverb

One cloud is enough to eclipse the sun.

Kannada proverb

A blind man asks for eyesight, not for two eyes.

Marathi proverb

It is best for a mendicant to roam, that there be no stain on him.

Hindustani proverb

You do not stumble over a mountain, but you do over a stone.

Knowledge precedes compassion.

Jain proverb

You do not need a fence of thorns around a field of cacti.

Tamil proverb

The cause for man's suffering is that he has restricted his love only to himself and his family.

Ramayana

Power with humility is the hallmark of the learned one.

Mahabharata

Everything else can be kept tied except joy.

Rabindranath Tagore

Another person's pain is meaningless. He only knows who suffers.

Kashmiri proverb

Salt, sugar and camphor are all white – yet how different they all are.

Tamil proverb

Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion is.

Mahatma Gandhi

Every step I take in the light is mine forever.

Swami Vivekananda

Pray for one hour before going to war, two hours before going to sea, and three hours before getting married.

Hindi proverb

Pepper is small but not its zest.

Tamil proverb

Stretch your legs only as far as the bed is.

Kannada proverb

The poor man eats to fill his stomach, the rich man eats for medical reasons.

Marathi proverb

The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives.

Endurance is one of the most difficult disciplines, but it is to the one who endures that the final victory comes.

Buddha

The world keeps dying but no one knows how to die.

Kabir

Do not spit into the well from which you drink your water.

Tamil proverb

You must travel to gain.

Hindustani proverb

Expansion of love is life. Contraction of love is death.

Ramayana

No matter who joins whom in battle, the laws of combat should be fair and just.

Mahabharata

An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching.

Mahatma Gandhi

Woeful is the mother who sees her sons fighting on different sides for a cause.

Mahabharata

The tree casts its shade upon all, even the woodcutter.

Hindi proverb

Even in hunger, tigers do not eat grass.

Tamil proverb

A bandicoot is lovely to his parents; a mule is pretty to its mate.

Kannada proverb

The tree laden with fruit always bows low.

Kashmiri proverb

The doctor forbids sugar, but he eats sugar cakes!

Marathi proverb

Madness takes a thousand forms.

Telugu proverb

If the horse befriends the grass what will it eat?

Only bodies die. Hopes and delusions are immortal.

Kabir

Difficulties come and go, but morality comes and grows.

Ramayana

As long as you have a nose, you will catch a cold.

Tamil proverb

A 'No' uttered from deepest conviction is better and greater than a 'Yes' merely uttered to please, or what is worse, to avoid trouble.

Mahatma Gandhi

When we take one step towards God, He takes seven steps towards us.

Hindi proverb

A picture of a gourd is not useful to cook with.

Tamil proverb

He who could not dance said that the ground was uneven.

Kannada proverb

A corpse is a burden to the earth.

Marathi proverb

God's house is as lofty as a tall date tree; if you reach the top there is sweet fruit, if you fall you are destroyed.

Hindustani proverb

To the hero, dying on the battlefield is preferable to bending his knee to the enemy.

Ramayana

One enemy is too many, one hundred friends is not enough.

Anger is great vice. So too is pride. Together they can destroy common sense.

Mahabharata

Even a creeper in the gutter can scale a tall building.

Tamil proverb

One heron amongst a hundred crows is a prince.

Hindustani proverb

Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men.

Mahatma Gandhi

There is no ladder to climb – there is only the first step, and the first step is the everlasting step.

J. Krishnamurti

The appearance of a seed is in direct contradiction to its true nature.

Rabindranath Tagore

A scalded cat dreads even cold water.

Hindi proverb

Even water can be held in a sieve, if you wait till it is frozen.

Tamil proverb

Seeing the peacock, the rooster spreads his wings.

Kannada proverb

The true state of the house is known by the ground in front of it.

Marathi proverb

Everything is green to him who goes blind in the monsoons.

Hindustani proverb

A man in this world without learning is as a beast of the field.

People trip over small stones, not mountains.

Tamil proverb

Time can dull the sharpest ambition.

Ramayana

The flames of envy and jealousy lick at man's anger and keep the heart alive.

Mahabharata

Time is a merciless enemy, if it is also a merciful friend and healer.

Mahatma Gandhi

Men are cruel, but Man is kind.

Rabindranath Tagore

The rooster cannot climb the roof but can still ascend to heaven.

Tamil proverb

Beware the knife even if it is made of honey.

Hindustani proverb

There is no need to teach a grandfather how to cough.

Telugu proverb

The powers of the mind are like the rays of the sun dissipated.
When they are concentrated, they illumine.

Swami Vivekananda

I am king, you are a king. Who is to fetch the water?

Hindi proverb

Don't dip your leg in water before knowing the depth.

Tamil proverb

The disagreeable husband finds stones in curds.

Kannada proverb

When an elephant is in trouble even a frog will kick him.

Power must be handed over to the younger generation in time.

Ramayana

Skill is a marvellous thing. It can adorn a humble man as much as it graces a king.

Mahabharata

Courteousness must not be mistaken for flattery, nor impudence for fearlessness.

Mahatma Gandhi

A cup is useful only when it is empty.

J. Krishnamurti

We can recognise our own house even twenty miles away.

Marathi proverb

An educated person is a nicely cut stone.

Kashmiri proverb

God gives food to every bird but does not throw it into the nest.

Hindi proverb

To rule wisely, the leader must take care to listen to all, scoff at none, ignore none.

Ramayana

Only the cure you believe in cures.

Tamil proverb

Will the God who brought us to the world make us graze on grass.

Kannada proverb

Even a small match can set fire to a large building.

Marathi proverb

If the devil cannot kill, he will at any rate torment.

Hindustani proverb

Never strike your wife, even with a flower.

When the princess is beautiful, competitors forget their brotherhood.

Mahabharata

Even if you must speak in anger, speak after due thought.

Tamil proverb

Children are treasures to the poor.

Hindi proverb

However much you rub charcoal it will still be black.

Marathi proverb

An honest millionaire has dignity even in a loincloth.

Hindustani proverb

If I had no sense of humour, I would long ago have committed suicide.

Mahatma Gandhi

A language is not an umbrella or an overcoat that can be borrowed, it is like living skin itself.

Rabindranath Tagore

The washerman never tears his father's clothes.

Hindi proverb

Giving advice to a stupid man is like giving salt to a squirrel.

Tamil proverb

What you give away is yours and what you hide will go to others.

Kannada proverb

Firewood and fire are best in the fireplace.

Marathi proverb

Who ever washes a tiger's mouth?

Hindustani proverb

If your face is ugly, what can the mirror do?

The contented man looks into his own heart to find total peace.

Ramayana

Evil thoughts do not grow alone in mature heads. They can spring up like weeds in the minds of children too.

Mahabharata

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.

Mahatma Gandhi

Money in the hand is dosa in the mouth.

Tamil proverb

Don't bargain for fish that are still in the water.

Hindi proverb

I bought the nettle, sowed the nettle, and then the nettle stung me.

Tamil proverb

For one who drinks swill there is one to trim his moustache.

Kannada proverb

It is always dark under the lamp.

Marathi proverb

Whatever you are able to secure from a burning house is a gain.

The tiger and the goat drink at the same spring.

Hindustani proverb

Because of his attachment to the body, man is not able to understand his divine nature.

Ramayana

Honour is more important to the proud than life itself.

Mahabharata

Prayer needs no speech.

Mahatma Gandhi

Life is a bridge. Cross over it, but build no house upon it.

Hindi proverb

As is our wealth so is the means we take to protect it.

Marathi proverb

The most beautiful things in the universe are the starry heavens above us and the feeling of duty within us.

The King may not heed the advice of his parents while waging war.

Mahabharata

Where there is sunshine, there is also shade.

Tamil proverb

In the wedding of the mad widow one who has a meal is the clever one.

Kannada proverb

A husband incapable of feeding the wife beats her like an expert.

Bengali proverb

The eye of a needle is empty but it clothes mankind.

Hindustani proverb

There is a higher court than the courts of justice and that is the court of conscience.

Mahatma Gandhi

In a treeless town, the castor tree is treated as a great tree.

Telugu proverb

If the sky were to be torn, how would it be patched?

Marathi proverb

Beauty without virtue is like a rose without fragrance.

Hindi proverb

There is no evil without its advantages.

One man's beard is on fire, and another man warms his hands on it.

Tamil proverb

A bad goldsmith will steal even his own mother's nose ring.

Hindustani proverb

It is not easy to live among material objects and give up all attachment to them.

Mahabharata

Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.

Mahatma Gandhi

A child without a grandmother is like paddy without water.

Kashmiri proverb

A friend is never known till the hour of need.

Hindi proverb

When you give some one a space to sit, he will ask for a place to sleep.

Tamil proverb

Wisdom comes after being ruined.

Kannada proverb

Envy becomes the whole-time companion of the man who desires material satisfaction.

Mahabharata

Intolerance itself is a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit.

Mahatma Gandhi

The fish in the spring are lawful to look at but unlawful to eat.

Kashmiri proverb

The earth laughs at one who calls a place in it his own.

Marathi proverb

Learning acquired in youth is an inscription in stone.

Hindi proverb

The thread of the garland also smells sweet.

Tamil proverb

The motherless child is greedy.

Konkani proverb

To lend is to buy a quarrel.

An arch never sleeps.

The king must employ different methods to know the true motivations of his generals.

Mahabharata

I had no shoes and complained, until I met a man who had no feet.

Mahatma Gandhi

The dew can never slake one's thirst.

Hindi proverb

A drunkard's words are gone by the next dawn.

Tamil proverb

Put jasmine in your hair after there is food on the table.

Kannada proverb

He will sleep soundly who has no cattle to guard.

Hindustani proverb

Woe and misery are relative emotions.

Mahabharata

Even a crow finds its own child precious.

Tamil proverb

Do not search for thorns in the milk.

Kashmiri proverb

Arrows that leave the bow and words that leave the mouth can never be recalled.

Hindi proverb

Under its clothing the world is naked.

Marathi proverb

An empty house is an estate to a wasp.

Hindustani proverb

If you have faith in the cause and means and in God, the hot sun will be cool for you.

Mahatma Gandhi

Get up, get going. Life is a race: no matter you win or loose, what matters is that you are a part of it!!

Krishna Dasani

If your head is intact, you can have a thousand turbans.

Hindi proverb

Only when in the sun do you miss the shade.

Tamil proverb

Roses and thorns come from the same plant.

Marathi proverb

All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.

Life without love is a waste.

Swami of Kanchi Math

The soul dries up without the company of the good.

Mahatma Gandhi

If you dig a grave for me I will bury you in it.

Hindustani proverb

If two of you must ride the horse, you cannot sit side by side.

Tamil proverb

Who is poor? He who is not contented.

Adi Shankara

Even the professional thief starts off by stealing eggs.

Kashmiri proverb

In the land of the blind, a one-eyed man is the king.

Hindi proverb

The frog's own mouth is its destruction.

Tamil proverb

She manages well whose husband is a slave to her.

Marathi proverb

Anger ends in cruelty.

The values of life are more valuable than the valuables of life.

Swami Tejoymayananda

Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Kalidasa

One needs to be slow to form convictions, but once formed they must be defended against the heaviest odds.

Mahatma Gandhi

Choose as your friends in life those who will shed tears on your death.

Tamil proverb

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

Hindi proverb

If you see something evil, think that you are not understanding it in the right light. Throw the burden on yourselves!

Swami Vivekanada

Not one single moment of life can be regained for millions of gold coins. Therefore, what greater loss is there than time spent fruitlessly?

Chanakya

Income is like jasmine.

Kashmiri proverb

To live on credit is to warm oneself at a straw fire.

Hindustani proverb

The grandson will become wiser than the grandfather.

Marathi proverb

The drums sound better at a distance

Hindi proverb

Known is a drop, unknown is an ocean.

Tamil proverb

Even evil people can have tulasi plants in their garden.

Kannada proverb

Silence helps one to suppress one's anger, as perhaps nothing else does.

Mahatma Gandhi

Large desire is endless poverty.

Power of love is God. Love for power is ego.

Swami Sukhabodhananda

To discover what is true demands freedom from tradition, which means freedom from all fears.

Krishnamurti

The father can build a good name but the son can destroy the village.

Marathi proverb

The sparrow feels comfortable upon the thorn bush.

Kashmiri proverb

One hand alone cannot make the clap sound.

Hindi proverb

Half a pot of rice is given as charity, but the announcing drumming is done all night.

Tamil proverb

The stick can undo in a minute what it took a year for the potter to do.

Kannada proverb

If you are good, everything will appear good to you.

Bengali proverb

Even a camel knows he is not taller than a hill.

Hindustani proverb

Rice tastes good when it is properly cooked, and talking is good when opportunity is ripe.

Kashmiri proverb

Sit on the bank of a river and wait: Your enemy's corpse will soon float by.

You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.

Indira Gandhi

A smile can make even a simple meal a feast.

Tamil proverb

The loans that we take carry simple interest, but the deterioration of character goes on with compound interest.

C. Rajagopalachari

A man of few words will measure every word.

Mahatma Gandhi

Freedom is a state of mind – not freedom from something.

J. Krishnamurti

Do not ignore small injuries or poor relatives.

Tamil proverb

If there were a saint in every house what would God do?

Marathi proverb

Those with little knowledge keep showing it. Those who know all are calm.

Hindi proverb

The fruit falls near the tree.

The tip of a finger cannot be touched by itself.

Sanskrit proverb

You can buy everything, except a father and a mother.

Tamil proverb

Pearls are of no value in a desert.

Real beauty is the beauty of the soul.

Mahatma Gandhi

Struggle is the law of progress.

Lala Lajpat Rai

A good teacher must know how to arouse the interest of the pupil in the field of study.

S. Radhakrishnan

If you pray lazily while lying down God will also go to sleep.

Tamil proverb

The riches of him who gives do not diminish.

Rigveda

Do not carry water in baskets.

Kashmiri proverb

Stretch out your legs only as much as your blanket is.

Hindi proverb

The wounds of fire would have gone with time but not the wounds caused by words.

Tamil proverb

A stone bears the wounds of a chisel but then becomes an idol of God.

Marathi proverb

Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun.

When a man works for an ideal, he becomes irresistible.

Mahatma Gandhi

How beautiful is humble courtesy!

Rabindranath Tagore

A king is honoured only within his own bounds.
A learned man is respected everywhere.

Chanakya

It is hard for an ex-king to become a night watchman.

The buffalo belongs to the one with the rod.

Hindi proverb

If you have luck even your rooster will lay eggs.

Tamil proverb

To understand the currents of a river, he who wishes to know the truth must enter the water.

Nisargadutta

Be careful when you ask God for one son – He may give you two,
or a demon.

Marathi proverb

A pepper plant will not give birth to roses.

Vedic proverb

Faith is not something to grasp, it is a state to grow into.

Mahatma Gandhi

If you are ignorant at least listen to others' advice.

Tamil proverb

Yoga is not a physical, mental or psychic feat. It is life itself.

Swami Venkatesananda

Success develops arrogance and man's spiritual progress is arrested.

Failure opens the eyes of man to his limitations.

Maharshi Raman

A single log of wood does not burn even in the fireplace.

Kashmiri proverb

A blind dog will not bark at the moon.

Hindi proverb

If you cannot bend at five, how can you bend at fifty?

Tamil proverb

We give to God by grains and take by bushels.

Marathi proverb

A righteous man is like a sandal tree which affords scent even to the axe that cuts it.

Goswami Tulsidas

Everyone needs to work. Even a lion cannot sleep, expecting a deer to enter his mouth.

Hitopadesha

What better book can there be than the book of humanity?

Mahatma Gandhi

Greater happiness comes with simplicity than with complexity.

Buddha

Truth can't be destroyed even by fire.

Hindi proverb

A husband with a beautiful wife will need another pair of eyes.

Tamil proverb

There is no hand that can catch time.

One who loves animals serves God too.

Bengali proverb

We follow bad habits and then blame fate.

Marathi proverb

One with a guilty conscience needs no accuser.

Kannada proverb

There are seven sins in the world: wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principle.

Mahatma Gandhi

The man who cannot appreciate music and literature is exactly like the lower animals, even though he may not possess horns and a tail.

Bhartrihari

Doubts never arise for the mindless man.

Tamil proverb

The human soul travels from the law to love, from discipline to freedom, from the moral plane to the spiritual plane.

Rabindranath Tagore

Eleven persons take eleven paths.

Kashmiri proverb

There is no lack of cloth to walk on at a washerman's wedding.

Marathi proverb

Learn how to listen before you make a speech.

Tamil proverb

When the ego is dead, marriage is true.

Raja Rao

Old age comes with the passage of time.

Maturity comes with deep reflection.

Swami Chinmayananda

Happiness depends on what you can give, not what you can get.

Mahatma Gandhi

If you have love, you are omnipotent.

Swami Vivekananda

The orange that is squeezed too hard yields bitter juice.

Kannada proverb

Even the devil needs a friend.

Tamil proverb

A wise man does not quarrel with his bread and butter.

Hindi proverb

A house says 'Build me and see,' a marriage says 'Try me and see.'

Marathi proverb

Pull someone by the ears and his head will follow.

Every dog is a tiger in his own street.

You, yourself, must make the effort. The buddhas are only teachers.

Buddhist proverb

Cut short your needs and you will realise you are a rich man.

Tamil proverb

Ability is not always gauged by examinations.
Popularity is not a guarantee of quality.

Indira Gandhi

Awareness is like living with a snake in the room. Such a state of attention is total energy. In such awareness the totality of yourself is revealed in an instant.

J. Krishnamurti

If everyone were to act, where would the audience be?

Rabindranath Tagore

A blind person does not know what the white rice looks like.

Kashmiri proverb

Wisdom is the daughter of old age.

Hindi proverb

What does the donkey know of the meaning of burning camphor?

Tamil proverb

An old patient is better than a new doctor.

Kannada proverb

It is better if the kick comes from a milch cow.

Bengali proverb

Prayer is not an old woman's idle amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action.

Mahatma Gandhi

If you are in the moment, you are in the infinite.

Swami Prajnanpad

Gold is the dust that blinds all eyes.

Hindi proverb

Convictions come from the head, but faith comes from the heart.
There is nothing more arid and lifeless than that which comes
from the head alone.

Nirad C. Chaudhury

A shoemaker always looks at your feet first.

Marathi proverb

Believe what you see and not just what you hear.

Tamil proverb

The best way to cherish one's sentiments about one's country is to
live away from it.

R.K. Narayanan

Celebrating birth is ignorance.
Celebrating death is understanding.

Osho

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

Buddha

Higher education results in philosophy and philosophy is a guide
to action.

S. Radhakrishnan

Hate is the subtlest form of violence.

Mahatma Gandhi

Don't abuse the coconut if you cut your hand while opening it.

Konkani proverb

Hedges have eyes and walls have ears.

Hindi proverb

Beggars do not complain about stale bread.

Marathi proverb

If you must travel in haste, choose the well-travelled path.

Tamil proverb

Better an empty shed than a wicked cow.

Bengali proverb

When pumpkins are watered, brinjals also get watered.

Kashmiri proverb

The history of man is that of his voyage towards the unknown.

Rabindranath Tagore

Immaturity lies only in total ignorance of self.

To understand yourself is the beginning of wisdom.

J. Krishnamurti

Knowledge relieves all suffering. Knowledge liberates.
True knowledge is the knowledge of our own nature.
You must become conscious of this infinite nature in yourself.

Swami Vivekananda

Education is a continuing process from the minute we are born
until we die.

Indira Gandhi

You yourself are the fish and the net.
You yourself are the cow and the grazer.

Guru Granth Saheb

If you really need a job to be done be prepared to fall at the feet of
a donkey.

Kannada proverb

Blow first and sip afterwards.

Hindi proverb

Love may last for seven seconds but grief lasts forever.

Tamil proverb

It is from care that blessings arise. It is from carelessness that troubles arise.

Buddha

A beggar's son vomits the most.

Marathi proverb

I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed.

I want the cultures of all the lands to blow about my house as freely as possible.

But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.

Mahatma Gandhi

Truly wise is he who is unstirred by praise or blame, by love or hatred.

Srimad Bhagavatam

Fluffy cotton can become the strongest fibre.

Tamil proverb

Inspiration follows aspiration.

Rabindranath Tagore

In a tree that you can't climb, there are always a thousand fruits.

The bachelors crave to get married, and the married ones regret why they got married.

Kashmiri proverb

There must be intelligence even in copying.

Hindi proverb

The true value of parents is appreciated only after their death.

Tamil proverb

True learning induces in the mind service of mankind.

Adi Granth

Anger is a great force. If you control it, it can be transmuted into a power which can move the whole world.

Sri Swami Sivananda

Knowledge is not the basis of enlightenment, enlightenment is the basis of knowledge.

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

He laughs at scars, who never felt a wound.

Hindi proverb

Art has no limits, but life has limits.

Tamil proverb

Do not give me alms but hold back your dog.

Marathi proverb

The heart at rest sees a feast in everything.

A man is but a product of his thoughts; what he thinks, that he becomes.

Mahatma Gandhi

Time is a wealth of change, but the clock in its parody makes it mere change and no wealth.

Rabindranath Tagore

He who does not fall does not rise.

Hindi proverb

Great anger is more destructive than the sword.

Tamil proverb

If I am to pay for the curd, why on earth is the milkwoman my friend?

Bengali proverb

The eyes do not see what the mind does not want.

Sanskrit proverb

When the bed breaks there is still the ground to lie on.

A wallet without money is just leather.

Tamil proverb

You stand in spiritual bliss in dumb joy.

Rig Veda

Life is the perennial search for the truth.

Yajur Veda

Patience is bearing the burden of life cheerfully.

Bhagwat Purana

The human body is a theatre of pleasure and pain, and they come into being with the self of a man.

Garuda Purana

What cannot be cured must be endured.

Hindi proverb

Alms giving should be as continuous as the flow of the Ganga.

Marathi proverb

Squinted sight is better than no sight at all.

Tamil proverb

One cannot recognise a joy if one has never tasted sorrow.

Lord Krishna

If your compassion does not include yourself, it is incomplete.

Buddha

Just as a flower gives out its fragrance to anyone who approaches or uses it, so love from within us radiates towards everybody and manifests as spontaneous service.

Ramdas

Life is but an endless series of experiments.

Mahatma Gandhi

You cannot straighten a dog's tail by putting it in a pipe.

Hindi proverb

Unity is equal to a thousand golden coins.

Kashmiri proverb

The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.

Rabindranath Tagore

Put your heart, mind, intellect and soul even to your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.

Swami Vivekananda

When you sing in happiness you need not know tone or rhythm.

Marathi proverb

All are not holy that go to worship.

Tamil proverb

Dirt looks dirtiest on a white surface.

Hindi proverb

As the body is purified by water, so is the mind purified by truth.

Konkani proverb

Is there any joy as pure and sorrow as fleeting as that of childhood?

Mulk Raj Anand

Only two things matter in this world: a son and a daughter.

If the hand gets muddied the mouth gets curds.

Kannada proverb

All five fingers are not equal.

Hindi proverb

Even if the river is full, the dog can drink water only by lapping it.

Tamil proverb

The mere act of aiming at something big makes you big.

Jawaharlal Nehru

The real man is he who being powerful protects the weak.

Swami Dayanand

Strength does not come from physical capacity, it comes from an indomitable will.

Mahatma Gandhi

Mind is the only basic necessity. And it can never be fulfilled.

Rajneesh

Knowledge is not something to be packed away in some corner of our brain.

S. Radhakrishnan

You can sing even at the grinding stone.

Marathi proverb

The tongue is not steel but cuts deeper.

Hindi proverb

The evil one has neither true friends nor loyal relatives.

Tamil proverb

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

Nothing is so easy as to train mobs, for the simple reason that they have no mind, no premeditation.

Mahatma Gandhi

In a deserted village the jackass is king.

While civilisation is the body, culture is the soul. While civilisation is the result of knowledge and research, culture is the result of wisdom.

Shri Prakash

Faith is the bird that sings when the dawn is still dark.

Rabindranath Tagore

When anger comes, wisdom goes.

Sanskrit proverb

The wearer knows best where the shoe pinches.

Hindi proverb

Even the black hen lays white eggs.

Tamil proverb

One plus one make eleven.

Kashmiri proverb

One does count the gyrations of a spinning top but yet marvels at its motion.

Marathi proverb

God is more than humanity, but in humanity too we have to find and serve him

Sri Aurobindo

The task of writing is not fulfilled at the desk; the reader is in a sense a partner in writing.

R. Dinkar

Those who pretend to know what they don't, will be thought ignorant of even what they know.

Thirukkural

A mind all logic is like a knife all blade. It makes the hand bleed that uses it.

Rabindranath Tagore

Contentment is more than a kingdom.

Hindi proverb

Your curses will come back for you just as chickens come back to the roost.

Tamil proverb

Most good people are awful bores; rascals make better company.

Khushwant Singh

A harvest of peace grows from the seeds of contentment.

A clean confession combined with a promise never to commit the sin again, is the purest type of repentance.

Mahatma Gandhi

The hungry dog fights best.

Hindi proverb

Uncontrolled desire knows no shame.

Tamil proverb

The string used to tie the temple flowers also reaches heaven.

Kannada proverb

There is one path for the flier, many for the seeker.

Marathi proverb

If you manipulate words, it is a lie.

If you play on words, it is a joke.

If you rely only on words, it is ignorance.

If you transcend words, it is wisdom.

Sri Sri Ravishankar

Neither the pillow nor the mattress understands your joys and sorrows.

Tamil proverb

When character is lost all is lost.

Hindi proverb

The greatest error is to say that you are weak, that you are a sinner, a miserable creature and you have no power and you cannot do this and that.

Swami Vivekananda

Civilisation is the result of knowledge, culture is the result of wisdom.

Shri Prakash

Ignorance reduces democracy to a government of the cattle, by the cattle and for the cattle.

J.B. Kriplani

Our good and evil deeds follow us continually like shadows.

Buddha

After a while one's own spouse seems very ordinary.

Tamil proverb

If you want a mature democracy there must be discontent in the public.

T.N. Sheshan

The divine music is incessantly going on within ourselves,
But the loud senses drown out the delicate music.

Mahatma Gandhi

We all ought to wash our minds completely clean, as the trees are washed by the rain, because they are so heavily laden with the dust of many centuries.

J. Krishnamurthi

Every cock fights best on his own dunghill.

Hindi proverb

A live mouse is better than a dead lion.

Tamil proverb

A drowning man asks for pears from the willow tree.

Kashmiri proverb

We cross the infinite with every step, and encounter the eternal with every second.

Rabindranath Tagore

One drop of honey cannot claim to come from one flower and another drop of honey from another flower. In the same way, all human beings are one.

Chandogya Upanishad

As long as there will remain two men on earth, jealousy will reign.

Bengali proverb

What does the blind man know of the beauty of the tulip?

There are none so deaf as those who will not hear advice.

Sanskrit proverb

Even an elephant can sip.

Tamil proverb

The bitters of life, like amla, have sweet after-taste.

Hindi proverb

Don't give up climbing the coconut tree when you are half-way up.

Konkani proverb

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

Mahatma Gandhi

The more completely we give of ourselves, the more completely the world gives back to us.

Buddha

Speak the truth – but speak it palatably.

Sanskrit proverb

Wade in the lake only as far as you can see the bottom.

Tamil proverb

Even when the tamarind is dead, its sourness is not dead.

Telugu proverb

Bugs infesting the wheat get ground along with it.

Hindi proverb

The soul of all religions is the same.

Swami Vivekananda

True charity occurs when there are no notions of giving, giver or gift.

Buddha

If we have listening ears, God speaks to us in our own language, whatever that language is.

Mahatma Gandhi

Experience is the mother of all knowledge.

Hindi proverb

God doesn't easily appear in the heart of a man who feels himself to be his own master.

Sri Ramakrishna

Faults are thick when love is thin.

Tamil proverb

To show one's fist to a blind man is neither a sin nor a virtue.

Kashmiri proverb

Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because dawn has come.

Rabindranath Tagore

Few cross the river of time and are able to reach non-being. Most of them run up and down only on this side of the river.

Buddha

Eyes are the mirror of mind.

Bengali proverb

A poor man has no friend.

Hindi proverb

You do not swat a fly with a hammer.

Tamil proverb

Most can see other people's faults. A few can see other people's virtues. And two or three can even see their own shortcomings.

Sanskrit proverb

One should accept nectar even if it comes from poison and gold even if it comes from dirt.

Chanakya

Faith is the poor man's wages.

Tamil proverb

What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?

Mahatma Gandhi

Patience is bitter but its fruit is sweet.

Hindi proverb

Happiness presents itself before man, wearing the crown of sorrow on its head.

Swami Vivekananda

A wound caused by fire will eventually heal, but a wound caused by the tongue leaves a scar that never heals.

Valluvar

The first flower that blossomed on Earth was an invitation to the unborn song.

Rabindranath Tagore

If you have eyes you will see that the whole of existence is joyful. Look at the flowers – it is simply unbelievable how happy flowers are, for no reason.

Osho

One man can burn water, whereas another cannot burn even oil.

Kashmiri proverb

Make not your sauce till you have caught your fish.

Hindi proverb

The cawing of crows does not reach heaven.

Konkani proverb

The most fertile field also needs rest.

Tamil proverb

There is no need to blow a conch in front of a deaf person.

Telugu proverb

Religion is a realisation – not talk, not doctrines, not theories, however beautiful all these may be.

Swami Vivekananda

For him who has no concentration, there is no tranquility.

Bhagvad Gita

Civilisation consists not in the multiplication but reduction of wants.

Mahatma Gandhi

If your eyes are blinded with your worries, you cannot see the beauty of sunset.

J. Krishnamurti

In music man is revealed, and not in noise.

Rabindranath Tagore

The small courtesies sweeten life.

Hindi proverb

No matter how high a sparrow flies, it cannot become an eagle.

Tamil proverb

A poet, even one who has never experienced grief, can describe a broken heart and be believed. Yet one who truly mourns has not the skill to put sorrow into words.

Sanskrit verse

Dive deep, O mind, dive deep in the ocean of God's beauty! If you descend to the utmost depths, there you will find the gem of love.

Bengali hymn

He who allows his day to pass by without practicing generosity and enjoying life's pleasures is like a blacksmith's bellows; he breathes, but does not live.

Sanskrit proverb

If a man speaks or acts with a pure mind, joy follows him as his own shadow.

Buddha

Without luck, ability is nothing.

Hindi proverb

Be ever grateful to those who give you salt.

Tamil proverb

When you are discussing elephants don't talk about yam matters.

Malayalam proverb

There is no need to give authority to a scorpion.

Kannada proverb

One animal's vomit is another animal's food.

Kashmiri proverb

Why save when your son is a good son? Why save when your son is a bad son?

It does not matter if the wolf turns right or left as long as it does not attack us.

Tamil proverb

Full effort is full victory.

Mahatma Gandhi

Freedom demands respect for the freedom of others.

Jawaharlal Nehru

At certain ages one does not need to understand everything.

Rabindranath Tagore

The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war.

Vijayalakshmi Pandit

Without courage you cannot practice any other virtue.

Indira Gandhi

Yesterday is but a dream, tomorrow is only a vision. But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Sanskrit proverb

Deeds are fruits, words are but leaves.

Hindi proverb

All the wealth of the world will run out one day.

Tamil proverb

Be like a camel – carrying sweets, but dining on thorns.

When the child begins to pick up the alphabet, he should be initiated into the science of the soul.

Swami Dayanand

Time is a rat that slowly cuts the thread of life.

Swami Shivanand

All wealth belongs to the Divine and those who hold it are trustees, not possessors.

Sri Aurobindo

Adversity is the crucible in which friendship is tested.

Mahatma Gandhi

The only religion that ought to be taught is the religion of fearlessness.

Swami Vivekananda

The greatest prayer is patience.

Buddha

Cursed cows have short horns.

Hindi proverb

A day of experience is better than a thousand words of advice.

Tamil proverb

Knowledge leads to unity; ignorance to diversity.

Sri Ramakrishna

Freedom and love go together. To love is not to ask anything in return, not even to feel that you are giving something – and it is only such love that can know freedom.

J. Krishnamurti

Errors are steps on the way.

Aurobindo Ghosh

No matter where you are on earth, heaven is as far away.

Tamil proverb

Contentment is the highest gain, good company the highest course, enquiry the highest wisdom, and peace the highest enjoyment.

Sanskrit proverb

Honey is not for the donkey's mouth.

Hindi proverb

The boat of affection ascends even mountains.

Bengali proverb

While man has something on his mind, God has something else on His.

Sindhi proverb

If everybody pushes together even a mountain can be moved.

Malayalam proverb

When a camel breaks wind it reaches neither earth nor sky.

Hindustani proverb

The water-pot of the rich has holes.

Konkani proverb

A civilisation must be judged and assessed not by the level of power it has reached, but by how it develops and expresses a love of humanity.

Rabindranath Tagore

A sandalwood tree gives fragrance even to the axe that chops it to pieces.

Tamil proverb



About the Publisher

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

The Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) targets communities across India and South Asia, and develops media and digital solutions for socio-economic benefit. These range from a series of books on ICT4D (information and communication technologies for development) and digital platforms for rural entrepreneurs to benchmarking awards and community media.

DEF also works on multi-stakeholder partnerships at the international level to assess, award and scale up digital media innovations, eg. via World Summit Awards, WSA-Mobile, Manthan Awards and mBillionth Awards. DEF coordinates and publishes research projects on ICT4D in a variety of media: print (books/magazines), Web and social media.

DEF is active in publication, projects and advocacy work in livelihood generation, health, education and culture. Its partner and co-investors include Barefoot College, IIM Ahmedabad, IL&FS Education & Technology Services, Intel Foundation, TCS, NIIT, UNDP, UNESCO, National Institute of Smart Governance (NISG), India's Department of Information Technology (DIT), OneWorld South Asia, American India Foundation (AIF), Global e Schools & Communities Initiative (GeSCI), NASSCOM Foundation, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), SRISTI, CDAC, Panos South Asia, Aagaz Foundation, British Council, Cyber Media India, Internet Society, APC and IDRC.

Other Publications of DEF

India's Best e-Contents 2005

This book consists of profiles and details of all the awardees of Manthan Award 2005.



Message of Empowerment

India's Best e-Contents 2006

This book consists of profiles and details of all the awardees of Manthan-AIF Award 2006. In addition, you can find analysis of the nominations in terms of their platform, media, technology, state from which they applied, and the categories they belonged to. You will also have a chance to get the comprehensive perspective of the role of e-content in development of the nation, and how e-content producers are adding value to ICT applications.



e-Content for Development in India

This publication consists of profiles and details of all the awardees of the Manthan Award 2007.



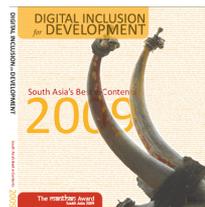
e-Content for Development in South Asia

This book consists of profiles and details of all the awardees of Manthan Award 2008.



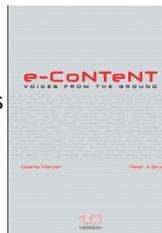
South Asia's Best e-Contents 2009

This is the annual publication brought out on the occasion of the Manthan Award South Asia 2009. It profiles all the awardees of the 6th edition of the Manthan Award South Asia and also includes all related articles.



e-Content - Voices From The Ground 1.0 & 2.0

Osama Manzar co-authors with Peter Bruck two volumes of the book 'e-Content - VOICES FROM THE GROUND' Version 1.0 & the Sequel 2.0. Each book was released on the occasion of World Summit Award Gala in 2003 & 2005 respectively.



dCONTENT - The Great Content Effect

This magazine highlights the role of digital content in ICT4D. dCONTENT's Mar - Apr '2009 issue is a special issue. It looks at the local digital content scene in as many as 20 countries around the world, from Austria to Tunisia. Featured authors include R. Sivakumar, Vasudev Varma, A.T. Jeyaseelan & Sajan Venniyoor.

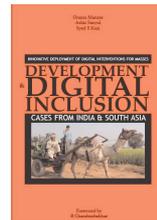


dCONTENT: Enabling Development through Digital Content



Development & Digital Inclusion

This book compiles successful deployments of ICT and digital media-enabled projects, their impact, and broader learnings for society at large. It advocates the necessity of appropriate digital content and services over just technology development.



mBillionth

Mobile for Masses - South Asia's Best Mobile Innovations 2010

The book titled 'Mobile for Masses' features a collection of informative and provocative insights into the mobile sector, as well as details of the best mobile innovations and projects from across South Asia. The process culminated in the mBillionth Award South Asia 2010. Many of these projects were also nominated for the World Summit Award Mobile 2010.



Fifteen Years of the Internet in India: Retrospectives and Roadmaps

This wide-ranging book profiles the impact of the Internet in India over the past 15 years, after it was introduced as a commercial medium in 1995. Movers, shapers and analysts of the Internet trace key highlights of Internet evolution, impacts across sectors, and anecdotes of its development. Useful recommendations and thought-provoking forecasts are also provided.

Madanmohan Rao

Dr. Madanmohan Rao (<http://twitter.com/MadanRao>) is a consultant and author from Bangalore. He is the editor of three book series: “The Asia Pacific Internet Handbook”, “The Knowledge Management Chronicles” and “AfricaDotEdu”. He is the research director for the Indian Music Experience Museum, and also research project director of Mobile Monday, a global network of mobile and wireless communication professionals. Madan is co-founder of the Bangalore K-Community, a network of knowledge management professionals. He was world music editor for Rave magazine, RJ for world music at WorldSpace Radio, editor-at-large for Wireless World magazine, and contributor to the Poynter Institute blog on new media trends.

Madan was formerly the communications director at the United Nations Inter Press Service bureau in New York, vice president at IndiaWorld Communications in Mumbai, group consultant at Microland in Bangalore, and research director at the Asian Media Information and Communication centre (AMIC) in Singapore. He graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, with an M.S. in computer science and a Ph.D. in communications.

Madan has served as a juror for the Manthan South Asia e-Content Awards, mBillionth South Asia Mobile Content Awards, World Summit Awards Mobile, Mobile Monday Global Peer Awards, and Mobile Marketing Association Global Awards. He is a frequent speaker on the international

conference circuit, and has given talks and lectures in over 70 countries around the world.

Madan was on the nominating committee of ICANN (International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) and was on the board of directors of CPSR (Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility). He has served on the board of editors of the journals Electronic Markets, Community Informatics, and Convergence, and for the book, Transforming e-Knowledge. He is adjunct faculty at IIT-B and the International School of Information Management.



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